FAULCON
SACRE
CAPE
GYR FALCON
LURE
GOOSHAWK

0369

A

TREATISE

OF

MODERN FAULCONRY:

To which is prefixed,

FROM AUTHORS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN,

AN INTRODUCTION,

Shewing the Practice of FAULCONRY in certain Remote Times and Countries.

By JAMES CAMPBELL, Esq;

——*Nititur pennis.* HOR,

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For the AUTHOR.

M,DCC,LXXIII.

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ERRATUM.

Page 158. line 10. for all, *read* old.

PRE-

PREFACE.

AS every nation has a peculiarity of manners which makes it different from its neighbours; ſo every age has ſome predominant qualities which diſtinguiſh it from thoſe that went before, and from thoſe that come after it. The age of Leo X. is celebrated for the reſurrection and rapid progreſs of the fine arts and of polite literature; that of Cromwell is remembered with execration, as the triumph of tyranny, enthuſiaſm, and hypocriſy.

The characteriſtic of each age, however, is more clearly ſeen by poſterity, who view it at the proper diſtance, than by contemporaries, who ſtand too cloſe to it to obſerve it with exactneſs. This laſt being my own ſituation with regard to the preſent times, it is with heſitation I venture to place the ſpirit of them in a perfect energy of ridicule, ſcepticiſm, and incredulity, which delights in oppoſing almoſt every thing whatever. Men derive an extraordinary ſort of pleaſure from contradiction, which, thank Heaven,

ven, the peculiar ſtructure of my paſſions cannot reliſh. They meaſure the worth of every object and opinion by the fickle ſtandard of their taſtes, humours, and prejudices—loudly condemning this moment the very things which but the moment before they embraced with raptures. Now they think it clever to turn whatever is reſpectable into a jeſt; whatever is probable, into doubt; whatever is demonſtrable, into abſurdity: But, were the world to give a general aſſent to their poſitions, they would ſtraight ſtand forth as the redoubtable champions of common ſenſe. Whether pride decoys them into this ſtudy of ſingularity; whether they are conſcious of perfections which deſerve the admiration of the crowd, and ought not to be obſcured in it; this is an inquiry which demands greater acuteneſs than I am poſſeſſed of. I wiſh I may not be miſtaken, when I take upon me to ſuſpect they are the practical diſciples of that laudable philoſophy which ſurpriſes us with the diſcovery, that beauty and deformity, virtue and vice, are not in the objects to which we aſcribe theſe qualities, but only in the feelings of thoſe who contemplate them. Thus, the charms of a fine lady are not in herſelf, but in the inward

emotions

emotions of her admirers: The integrity of a worthy man is not to be found in himſelf, but in the favourable ſentiments of his neighbours: And my book muſt not, according to this humiliating ſyſtem, pretend to any more merit than the generoſity of my readers will be pleaſed to confer upon it. This amazing philoſophy convinces me, that popularity is the great end to which all men ought to direct their actions, ſince, without it, they muſt all be fools, or knaves, or profligates; and the ladies, let them ſee to it! unleſs they learn to be a little more explicit and kind with regard to their fond languiſhers, muſt be all transformed into frights and witches. The man muſt have more than the patience of ten Jobs, whoſe internal feelings ſhall perſevere to paint his miſtreſs as an angel, after ſhe has exhauſted on the kind wretch her whole ſtock of torment, and made him more miſerable than a ſcore of devils. The reader will take notice that I do not ſpeak my own experience: The ſex have always uſed me with a warmth which I ſhall never forget, but, ah! which I ſhall never again be able, however willing, to deſerve.

If I have properly deſcribed the ſpirit of the times, I have little cauſe to hope that the work

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I am now offering to the public will procure me many compliments, ſince it is introduced with a few narrations which are not yet according to the common notions of mankind. My readers will eaſily diſcover the narrations I have in my eye; and I will not be ſo much their enemy as to deprive them of this delicious exertion of their ſagacity, by pointing out theſe exceptionable parts of the book myſelf. I am not prophetic enough to foretel the treatment they ſhall think due to my labours; but hope it will not be of the ſevereſt kind, after they are acquainted with the motives which ſeduced me into the perilous character of an author. Theſe, in a word, were, to entertain them with a view of Faulconry, in times and countries very different from their own; to help them to ſome inſight into this manly art, as it is practiſed in modern days, if they do not already underſtand it; and to leave a remembrancer behind me, which may now and then tell future ſportſmen that I lived not altogether uſeleſs to their intereſts. Such are the motives from which I have written; and, if I may be allowed to judge of their nature, they are far from being provocatives to overwhelm me with the deriſion or contempt

tempt of any reaſonable perſon whatever. Nay, I will be bold to ſay more; theſe motives will, to the truly learned and judicious, be an apology for the numerous overſights which their perſpicacity will detect in my performance, but which their ſweetneſs of temper will conceal from thoſe who ſucceed beſt in criticiſm at ſecond hand. Experience has taught me, that thoſe who are the beſt qualified to judge are evermore the leaſt forward to condemn; and, when neceſſity extorts their diſapprobation, the readieſt to ſoften the rigour of their ſentence, by every comfort their humanity can ſuggeſt. Give me the countenance of a few men of this magnanimous character, and I ſhall eaſily endure the ſtrictures of thoſe who are actuated by the odd ſpirit of the times. Yet I muſt beware of exaſperating men of their immenſe talents. I am a perſon myſelf of the moſt harmleſs and innocent diſpoſition in the world, and moſt ſeriouſly inclined to live to the end of my days, without the ſmalleſt intercourſe with them; and therefore they will lay me under the ſtrongeſt obligations to gratitude, if they ſuffer me to walk on to fame, without the honour of their notice. Pox on't! do they imagine that an author can

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find any amuſement in their effuſions of ſcorn, petulance, and acrimony, when they are directed againſt the beſt efforts of his mental powers?

But why ſhould I hope to eſcape perſecution? This is a piece of good fortune which writers have not attained, who have handled ſubjects of very high importance, and with a reach of genius that commands my admiration and reſpect. The laſt, ſo far as I know, who has been attacked by the ſpirit of the times, is a gentleman who, ambitious of literary fame, and nobly qualified to earn it, has publiſhed a treatiſe on the ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF LANGUAGE, the beginning and pledge of a work which will do honour to the intellectual faculties. In this profound, but perſpicuous, maſculine, but elegant book, the author has diſplayed the moſt accurate knowledge of the operations of the human underſtanding, according to the conceptions of both the ancient and later philoſophers. He remarks with great juſtneſs the difficult riſe and tardy growth of our ideas, and applies his ingenious obſervations on that ſubject, by a beautiful analogy, to ſhow that language is not natural to mankind; that is, language is not, as motion or ſleeping, the

effect

effect of any peculiar inſtinct, but acquired by experience, imitation, or inſtruction. This propoſition, which no mortal ever did, or ever will deny, he illuſtrates, at great length, by examples taken from the very loweſt and rudeſt ſtage of language; and thence aſcending through ſome of the intermediate ſtages, to that which is generally allowed to be the moſt elegant and poliſhed. Though he labours to eſtabliſh a point which never can be overturned, yet he has rendered his work both uſeful and entertaining, by his detection of modern errors, and by the view which his uncommon knowledge of the Greek tongue has enabled him to preſent of ancient truths. Further; as his reaſonings are conducted with a coolneſs and preciſion which is not uſually met with, he is one of the few authors whom every man ought to ſtudy, who would learn to think with coherence, and to unfold his arguments with perſuaſive force and clearneſs. He ſeems to have been born to make the vanity of the philoſophers of our days to ſhrink, by ſhewing them, that the moſt valuable of the logical and metaphyſical notions, on which many of them build their fame, were as well known, and more elegantly explained by the ancients.

In a word, this author has an indiſputable title to the character of a genuine philoſopher, if depth of reflection, novelty of inveſtigation, and ſtrength of argument, can confer it; and therefore the ſpirit of the times has become his enemy.

This gentleman had, no doubt, the moſt refined and delicate enjoyment in perceiving his ideas riſe formally in his mind, with eaſe and connection, and materially throwing themſelves, as they roſe, into the moſt natural and ſignificant expreſſions. His pleaſure would receive a vaſt addition of livelineſs, when his imagination afterwards anticipated the praiſes which an approving world would laviſh on his labours—ſo new! ſo ſurpriſing! ſo admirable! This is an agreeable deluſion, to which we authors readily ſurrender ourſelves, amidſt the ſucceſsful glow of compoſition; and, though our infirmity, it is abſolutely neceſſary to ſupport us under the waſting fatigue of ſtudy, and to puſh us on to the completion of our taſks. Bewitched by the hope of glory, we fancy that mankind, as ſoon as our works are announced to them, are to fling away their ordinary occupations; to run in all the eagerneſs of curioſity to our bookſeller's, for

for copies of the wonderful performance; to burſt out, at every bright ſentiment, into our applauſes; and to talk, long, long afterwards, of nothing but our prodigious merit. Alas! amidſt the fervors of our vanity, we quite loſe ſight of the ſpirit of the times; but it ſoon ſtarts up before our terrified imaginations, and convinces us, from the little acceſſion of reſpect we derive from our lucubrations, that we only dreamed ourſelves into importance.

Nothing ſurely can give deeper and more agonizing wounds to the ſelf-love of an author, who has denied himſelf the ordinary amuſements of life, in order to provide edification and delight to the public, than to find that the glorious efforts of his taſte, wit, and ingenuity, are known only to himſelf and his bookſeller, or, if known to a few more, are treated with neglect, contempt, or deriſion. This uſage, which is ſhameleſsly common, is ſo provoking, that, were my counſels of weight, in the republic of letters, equal to their wiſdom, I would ſoon perſuade all ingenious men to confine the illuminating beams of knowledge to their own breaſts, and permit the ſhades of ignorance and barbarity to deepen over an ungrateful world. I am ſure the great philo-

philoſopher, to whom I have paid that tribute of applauſe which is juſtly due to his extraordinary merit, will readily enter into, and heartily go along with this neceſſary meaſure, if his reſentment bear any proportion to his wrongs. Perhaps all his friends have hitherto been too tender of the peace of his mind, to communicate to him the inſulting opinions of his countrymen relative to his excellent treatiſe. And indeed I am miſerable that I am among the firſt to aſſure him they are very far from thinking it as conducive to either their recreation or inſtruction, as he thinks it himſelf. They aſk at one another, not in modeſt whiſpers, but in the plaineſt and moſt audible articulation, What ſpirit poſſeſſed him to miſapply ſo much ſcience and erudition in order to trace human nature, the object of ſo many celeſtial favours, back to a ſtate little ſuperior to that of the brutes? Then, they are ſneeringly inquiſitive to know, what particular bleſſing does he mean to confer on his fellow-creatures by ſuch a fine metaphyſical diſcovery; whether has it tended to give more ſtrength to his own principles of religion and morality, or will it produce ſo noble an effect on theirs? But they are all vehemently agitated by the ſpirit of

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the times, when he tells them, they may be ſo accuſtomed to the water as to grow as perfectly amphibious as ſeals or otters;—that men muſt have been many ages in the ſtate of the beaver before they invented a language;—that men, in their natural ſtate, differ from the brutes only by their unexerted capacities, being totally deſtitute of ideas, laws, and religion;—that there is no aſſociating principle in the human breaſt, but the fear of hunger, cold, and wild beaſts;—not to mention many other pleaſant novelties of the ſame marvellous kind.

My philoſophy, which dares not venture beyond the art and practice of Hawking, qualifies me not to judge of theſe ſublime ſpeculations—but it enables me to conclude, that the learned and ſagacious author, who has beſtowed much ſtudy and inquiry for ſeveral years on ſuch intereſting paradoxes, deſerves more credit in aſſerting them, than any other man deſerves in denying them, who never beſtowed any ſtudy or inquiry on them at all. Theſe ſurpriſing diſcoveries flow moſt aſſuredly from his general ſyſtem; and men would act more wiſely, and more ſuitably to their preſent ſtate of improvement, if, inſtead of controverting and ridiculing them,

they

they tried to find out the advantages wrapped up in them from vulgar ſight. *Firſt*, Is it poſſible to render mankind amphibious? In this caſe, the art of amphibiouſneſs would be an important enlargement of the circle of modern education—as it would add to the ſports of gentlemen that of hunting all ſorts of fiſhes, and enable the poor to walk the bottom of the ocean in ſearch of thoſe treaſures which have lain there from time immemorial, and are daily increaſing. *Secondly*, Have men lived ſpeechleſs, that is, without ſounds ſignificant, for many ages, in the ſtate of the beaver? Why, to be ſure, the Jewiſh legiſlator muſt, in this caſe, have been miſtaken in the account he has left us of the origin of human ſociety—and, if ſo, I fancy the wiſeſt thing we can do, is to get rid of our Chriſtianity as faſt as we can, and embrace the charming and indulgent, the eaſy and polite doctrines which are ſo eloquently taught by the zealous and philoſophical apoſtles of the free-thinkers. *Thirdly*, Are men, in their natural ſtate, totally deſtitute of ideas, laws, and religion? On this ſuppoſition, all thoſe people muſt be conſidered, notwithſtanding their articulation, as ſtill in a ſtate of nature, whoſe minds are found empty, or nearly

nearly empty, of theſe matters. This very ſimple obſervation points out the expediency, and, indeed, the neceſſity of apprehending and putting ſuch full-grown ſavages under the tuition of able maſters, who may carry their capacities through habits and faculties into energies, for the intercourſe of political ſociety. I hope the author will not be angry with me for imagining that he is the propereſt perſon in the world to conduct an academy of this nature;—both becauſe he perfectly underſtands the diſpoſitions of wild men, and becauſe, in the courſe of his ſuperintendency, he would make many curious remarks on them, which would render his intended hiſtory of man immenſely diverting. *Laſtly*, Does the human heart acknowledge no other principle of aſſociation than the fear of danger? This granted, we are happily freed from the kindly ſtirrings of benevolence, and need give ourſelves no trouble about performing the teaſing and expenſive duties of generoſity and friendſhip, mercy and candour, towards our neighbours—except when our own intereſt or conveniency engages us in them. Theſe are a few of the profitable conſequences that follow from our author's diſcoveries; and of the bene-

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fit of theſe, people bereave themſelves, from their ſubjection to the ſpirit of the times.—I do verily believe, that by far the greater part of the human race are, upon one account or other, fit ſubjects for that academy, at the head of which our author might be placed with great propriety.

The reader will permit me to inform him, that I am apt to fancy myſelf grown acquainted with any perſon of whom I write long; and the author, I hope, will pardon me, if, in compliance with this foreſaid humour, I addreſs myſelf directly to him, as to a friend whom I have juſt acquired, and for whom I profeſs the moſt perfect energy and eſteem.

"You tell us, Sir, with an air of belief, which I think ſincere, of men who ate fiſh four days without drinking till the fifth;—of men who lived on the beſt terms with ſeals, without drinking at all;—of men whoſe food was fruit and twigs, whereby they became as light as feathers;—of men who conſider their own vermin as a very tolerable diet, and make a meal on them now and then;—and, of men whoſe rumps are embelliſhed with fine, long, tapering tails, like

thoſe

thoſe of cats. You will hardly believe what I am going to tell you, but it is a certain fact, that theſe, and the like bleſſed ſtories, which you produce from authors of unqueſtioned truth and acute obſervation, have made ſome people ſuſpect you to be a ſly arch wag, who wants to ſet ſimple men a gaping and ſtaring, that you may have the pleaſure of laughing at their ſilly confuſion. For my own part, as I am as thoroughly perſuaded of the truth of your ſtories as you are yourſelf, I cannot but wonder they meet with any oppoſition in a generation wherein it is not unfaſhionable to believe the non-exiſtence of both mind and body;—but my wonder ceaſes, now that I recollect the contradictory ſpirit of the times. Your ſtory of the men equipped with tails is to me a full confirmation of all the reſt which are ſprinkled throughout your valuable treatiſe;—and my ready aſſent to their real exiſtence was originally produced by a precious book, written by a Frenchman, (and his nation, you know, is not a bit given to fibbing), and afterwards eſtabliſhed by the ſight which I had of one of theſe people myſelf. As you have not quoted this ſingular writer, who proves, with the greateſt clearneſs, that all things on earth, ani-

mals as well as vegetables, were in the beginning produced in the ſea, I cannot forbear thinking he is one of the few authors with whom you are unacquainted. His ſixth day of the creation, wherein he treats of the origin of man, and of other animals, contains ſo many inſtances of men with tails, that, had you read him, you certainly would have ſtrengthened Keoping's authority for this fact with his. He tells us, that theſe people are fierce in their diſpoſitions, not overburdened with good ſenſe, and of great bodily ſtrength. There are, he ſays, a great many of them in Ethiopia, Egypt, the Indies, England, France, but eſpecially in Scotland;—as to thoſe in France, he declares he ſaw ſeveral of them himſelf. At Tripoli, he ſaw a black with a tail ſix inches long, who, with two oars, rowed a large ſloop with greater ſwiftneſs than twenty ordinary men could have done; this man was covered all over with hair, and Borneo was his native country, where moſt of the men and women have the accompliſhment of tails. He tells us of a French officer who had this appendage ſix inches long too, and was, all over his body, as rough and ſhaggy as a bear; and this account he received from an Italian courteſan, who ſpoke

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of his countrymen in a ſtile that ſhewed ſhe did not diſlike him as a lover. He adds, that, in the iſland of Formoſa, as well as in the Molucca and Philippine iſlands, there are whole nations garniſhed with tails;—and where, conſequently, it would be monſtrous to ſee people without any. To this French gentleman's ſtories let me join the opinion of ſome of the Jewiſh writers, who inform us, that Adam himſelf was produced with a tail; but thoſe who have a mind to know into what this primitive tail was afterwards transformed, will receive ample ſatisfaction from Bayle's dictionary. I am afflicted beyond meaſure, that to theſe unqueſtioned authorities, I am not able to add that of the chaſte and immaculate, the ſimple and ingenuous Mr Raubaud, who is verſed to a miracle in matters of this kind. The man who ſaw eight and twenty Britons eaten at a breakfaſt by a tribe of Indians, muſt certainly have ſeen nations with tails,—and with large tails too; and, Sir, if he did not communicate this curious anecdote to you in converſation, his ſilence muſt be imputed to his fear of bringing his other ſtories into doubt, by retailing one, which, at firſt ſight, would juſtify a little ſcepticiſm—among people

people of narrow and prejudiſed minds. Perhaps he was alſo concerned for the honour of his order, which ſuch a ſeemingly bouncing narrative from a member of it might furniſh; for, it is well known to the articulating part of mankind, that the Jeſuits in general are the declared enemies of trick, cunning, and deceit;—of evaſion, prevarication, and probabiliſm;—of intrigue, politics, and caballing. But I hope the reverend Father Raubaud will not permit his delicate regard to veracity to rob the world of the numberleſs aſtoniſhing obſervations and diſcoveries which he has made in the courſe of his travels; and, for his encouragement, I aſſure him, on both your part and mine, that his ſtories muſt be wonderful indeed! if they ſurpaſs our vaſt energies of belief.

What I have ſaid hitherto on this diverting ſubject, reſts wholly on the veracity of other people; but what I am going to advance further, reſts wholly on my own. I ſaw one of theſe tailed men with my own eyes, who was a ſturdy alert fellow;—and, indeed, Sir, he was the owner of a ſignal tail;—a tail, Sir, of honourable dimenſions;—a tail, that ſhewed he was endowed with ſtrong parts, and qualified to fill the greateſt pla-

ces.

ces. As he ſpoke only the inarticulate language, which no body about him underſtood, I cannot gratify your curioſity with a detail of his parentage, education, or adventures, from his own mouth—which to you would be extremely entertaining, as it would be to myſelf, becauſe it would be extremely ſingular. Nicobar, I ſuppoſe, gave birth to this hapleſs foreigner, and ſaw his earlier years gliding away in careleſs gayety, under the ſoft indulgence of parents, who beheld with joy his gay and lively genius daily expanding and advancing to its full vigour. They would thence prognoſticate exquiſite felicity to their dear boy; and that he might enjoy his future fortunes with dignity, they ſent him to Borneo to poliſh his manners, and learn the knowledge of the world by travelling. Their parting with their darling would be a ſcene of the moſt affecting tenderneſs;—perhaps he was the ſtay and laſt hope of their family. They would dread the violence of the tempeſts, the unwholeſomeneſs of ſea-proviſions, the change of his native air;—and, ah! they would ſupplicate him to beware of riotous living, of meddling with the prejudices of ſtrangers, and of making too oſtentatious a diſplay of his tail, which might cauſe his good ſenſe to be called

called in queſtion. They would embrace him with hearts filled with anxiety, and eyes ſtreaming with tears, and tails dangling ſorrowfully down to the duſt; perhaps, the youth himſelf beheld their anguiſh with ſome yearnings of filial love;—but theſe emotions would ſoon yield to the joy of ſeeing himſelf at his own diſpoſal, with plenty of money in his pocket, and on his way to a land overflowing with every thing capable of pleaſing his ſenſes, and charming his imagination. At length he landed in Borneo, merrily wagging his tail on ſeeing himſelf again on firm ground, and impetuous to plunge into all the diſſipations of this voluptuous country. How long he continued in that delicious courſe of ſenſuality on which he now entered, or for what miſdemeanour he was afterwards baniſhed from it:——Theſe, Sir, are parts of this young man's hiſtory, of which I dare not pretend to have any certain knowledge. Perhaps, he had fought a duel—or had cheated at play—or had derided the ſuperſtitions of the natives—or had plotted againſt the government—or had tried to bilk his creditors—or had aſperſed the character of the prime miniſter;—I ſay, perhaps; for I would not poſitively aver he was puniſhed for

for any of theſe crimes, as I have no ſort of evidence to prove ſuch a heavy charge. Nay, as I never ſaw myſelf, or heard from others, that the poor lad had the leaſt propenſity to any of theſe atrocities, I cannot imagine they were the ſource of his misfortunes; but, as he always manifeſted a languiſhment of temper, which ſeemed to incline to gallantry, I ſuſpect, that his exile originated from ſome indiſcreet affair of the heart. Be this as it will, it is certain he was delivered into the hands of ſome Britiſh ſailors for tranſportation, who landed him ſafe in Ilay, and preſented him as a curioſity to a gentleman there;—in the corner of whoſe kitchen-chimney I ſaw him chained to a great wooden block, which ſerved him for a ſtool as well as a ſtake. I own, Sir, it raiſed a ſecret indignation in my breaſt, to ſee ſuch a noble, clever, lively ſtripling treated with ſo much contumely, for a tranſgreſſion which is every day committed, and every day forgiven, in the moſt polite and enlightened nations on this ſide of the globe.—Ah! how it would have ſtabbed his indulgent parents to the heart, to have ſeen the young gentleman compelled to mingle with menial ſervants, and involved in diſmal clouds of peat-reek, which con-

conſpired with his woes to exhauſt the moiſture of his eyes! The fortitude with which he bore his ſufferings was altogether heroic. He diſdained all intercourſe with the men, and wrenched out out of their hands the ſticks they lifted up againſt him, with a force and agility that ſhewed nothing wanting to him but freedom, to convince them of his ability to do himſelf juſtice. But his carriage to the women was not roughened into averſion by all the diſaſters they had occaſioned him; to them he behaved with all his natural politeneſs; particularly to the kitchen-maid, for whom he had conceived the warmeſt and moſt direct paſſion. Alas! he felt his heart faſter entangled in the charms of Kate, than his body in the iron chain which ſurrounded it. In vain his parents now viſit the coaſt, to deſcry the ſhip which is to bring their darling to their arms! In vain his former miſtreſs hopes to preſs the accompliſhed youth to her heaving boſom! In vain the monarch of Nicobar expects to place him in his council, and number him among the brighteſt luſtres of his court! The chain, and Kate more attractive than the chain, detain him from their ardent wiſhes, and ſink his fame and fortune in the thickeſt ſhades of obſcurity.

Sir,

Sir, if this plain narration, conſiſting partly of fact, and partly of conjecture, do not convince the ſpirit of the times of the actual exiſtence of creatures with tails, which are indeed real men and women—the following method, to which I adviſe you in a friendly way, is the only expedient whereby you can vanquiſh the reigning ridicule, ſcepticiſm, and incredulity. You need only to procure an infant from Nicobar, and, as the humanity of the Ouran Outangs is alſo brought into doubt, you may, at the ſame time, get one of their infants from Angola.——You may eaſily obtain the latter from an Eaſt-India captain, and the former from any worthy gentlemen who are concerned in the ſlave-trade. If you can inſtruct theſe children in languages, arts, and ſciences, you will thoroughly confirm your ſpeculations, force conviction into the ſpirit of the times, and ſpread your fame from the riſing to the ſetting of the ſun. The young men might be ſent home after their education, where they would teach their countrymen to form ideas, to make abſtractions, and to bend their tongues to articulation; greatly to the improvement of natural knowledge, and to the extention of the Britiſh commerce.

We original, or rather eccentric, authors, labour under numberleſs difficulties, from our ſuperiority or oppoſition to by far the greater part of mankind, by which we excite their envy or reſentment. The novelty of our theories and illuſtrations ſtrikes them at firſt with ſurpriſe; but that emotion ſoon yields to a concern for their own familiar and rivetted prejudices, which they now think endangered. What they themſelves never ſaw, or heard of before, they fancy could not have been ſeen, and ought not to be reported now; and ſo they grow angry at us for kindly endeavouring to widen the compaſs of their knowledge. Thus it falls out, that you have, and I ſhall probably have, ſo many adverſaries; but I am prepared for my ſufferings, by the view of thoſe which you actually undergo. I wiſh I had your philoſophy to enable me to endure mine with that meek and gentle dignity, with which, I ſuppoſe, it enables you to endure yours. We ſhall perſevere, however, to bring into the rank of truths thoſe things which the ignorant have hitherto placed among fables, regardleſs of ſuch perſons as judge of the ſtate of the whole world by the little ſpot wherein they were born. Writers of our uncommon character muſt

reſt

reſt ſatisfied with the approbation of men of large minds;—and, as you, Sir, are endowed with a very large mind, I chearfully dedicate the following introduction to you, which you will perceive to be pretty much in the ſpirit of your own book. May I hope that you will deign to accept of this mark of my ſincere reſpect and eſteem? I rejoice in the ſupport which my ſtories receive from yours, and in that too which I flatter myſelf yours receive from mine; and hope we ſhall evermore fight reciprocally for the wonders of each other. Meanwhile, I beg leave to aſſure the public, that we have not written in concert;—I did not ſuggeſt a ſingle hint to your treatiſe, nor did you furniſh a ſingle *tale* to my introduction.

INTRODUCTION.

HUNTING, Fiſhing, and Hawking, are diverſions which join profit to amuſement. On the former account, they were anciently the ſerious buſineſs of all ranks; and, on the latter, are now followed by the great and opulent.

Mankind were unacquainted, in the more early period of ſociety, with the eaſier arts of living, which accident or ingenuity has ſince brought to light. The ſpontaneous fruits of the earth afforded them but a lean and ſcanty ſubſiſtence; and they were, therefore, obliged to prey on the wild inhabitants of the foreſt, the flood, and the air.

Theſe animals were, many of them, ſuperior to mankind in ſtrength, and, all of them, in agility; and ſo men could not maſter them by their bodily powers. In order then to get them into their hands, they ſought the aids of contrivance and ſtratagem.

They obſerved, that the ſame creatures which they wanted to feed on, were food to other creatures

tures qualified by nature to ſeize them. Thus, they ſaw the hare run down by the hound;—the ſalmon dragged out of the pool by the otter;—and the partridge born away by the hawk.

Human invention, ſharpened by neceſſity, is wonderfully rich in reſources. Men, ſeeing with what facility theſe creatures ſubdued their prey, would ſoon perceive the advantage of being connected with them. Hence they would form the deſign of taming them to their ſervice. As the fields produce more animal food than either the water or the air, the dog would be the firſt object of their flattering regards. Thoſe who lived on the banks of the river, would court the otter to their familiarity, and make him contribute to their maintenance alſo. Theſe eſſays would give origin to hunting and fiſhing;—ſports, which the ſkill and induſtry of ſucceeding ages have carried to their perfection.

Theſe ſports fall not within my deſign; and therefore I leave them, with juſt obſerving, that they were probably known before faulconry. The reaſon is obvious. The fields and the ſtreams are more acceſſible than the heights of the air; and dogs and otters are at firſt ſight much more tractable than hawks. Thoſe methods of procuring

ring food which appeared eaſieſt would, for that reaſon, be preferred, by a ſtarving generation, to thoſe that ſeemed next to impoſſible.

It is from the amuſements of children I am going to deduce the riſe of the noble ſcience of faulconry. They who know the eſteem I have for this ſcience will acquit me of having any deſign to leſſen its dignity by ſuch an origin. If people trace back the moſt uſeful arts of life, they will diſcover few of them which do not owe their exiſtence to chance.

Whoever has examined the firſt appearance of a hawk, muſt confeſs, that it does not look as if it were capable of culture. Its eye is ſharp and ferocious—its motions are quick and impatient —and it furiouſly attacks, and ravenouſly feeds on its prey. Men would therefore regard the hawk as irreclaimable, and think as little of employing it to procure game for them, as of the wolf to provide them in veniſon.

What ſeemed impoſſible to ripened reflection, was ſhown to be practicable by the diverſions of children. Every body knows how remarkably fond they are of young birds, and how tenderly they bring them up. They alſo diſplay much ingenuity in wearing off the natural wildneſs of the

the little creatures, and in habituating them to underſtand their ſignals, and to obey their voices.

Parents, obſerving this innocent propenſity of their children, would gladly take every opportunity of gratifying it;—and their way of life would give them many. The chace, to which they were attached by neceſſity, would ſometimes lead them among the clifts of high rocks, where hawks are wont to place their eyries. When they lighted on thoſe with eyeſſes, their parental affection would prompt them to carry home the young birds to their children. Taught themſelves by obſervation, that hawks fed on fleſh, they would direct their children to bring up the eyeſſes with animal food.

The young hawks, being now continually among the hands, and accuſtomed to the voices of the children, would ſoon forget their natural wildneſs, and contract an affection for thoſe who bred them. They would fly from their hands, ſoar around them in the air, and then return to them. On theſe occaſions, it would divert the children exceedingly, to obſerve the conſternation into which their birds caſt all the winged tribes,

tribes, and with what boldneſs they purſued and attacked their prey.

Children are naturally generous and communicative—almoſt incapable of enjoying pleaſure out of a crowd. Actuated by this diſpoſition, they would invite their parents to partake of the happineſs themſelves drew from the flights of their hawks. Imagine how great muſt have been the amazement of theſe ſimple people, when they ſaw, for the firſt time, birds, which ever before they had thought irreclaimable, managed by their children. It would look like a prodigy, to ſee them mounting to the ſkies from the hands which fed them, and returning immediately at the ſound of the voices which careſſed them. Men would be ſtill more aſtoniſhed to obſerve them ſo very tame as even to part with their prey to their keepers, and fly afterwards in queſt of more with their former ſpirit.

Aſtoniſhment would give way to reflection. The more ſagacious would perceive, that, by the hawk, they might command the ſky, and thence open a new ſource of proviſions. The experiment was worth the making; and thoſe who firſt conceived the idea of it, would no doubt go directly about it. The attempt would, as is uſual,

expoſe them to ridicule, and bring the ſoundneſs of their underſtandings in queſtion, among that ſet of mortals, who, to the dulneſs gifted them by nature, have made a proper addition of ſelf-conceit. The ſucceſs of their firſt eſſays would ſoon put to ſilence ſuch of the laughers as were not incorrigible, and encourage their perſeverance. The hawk now ſhared their affection with the hound, and the training of it became a capital object of their attention. They ſtudied its temper, ſought the beſt ways of preſerving its health, and inveſtigated remedies to cure its diſeaſes. They imparted their obſervations to their children, who handed them to theirs, augmented by their own; and thus faulconry grew, out of the experience of ſucceſſive generations, into the regular ſyſtem in which we now ſee it. This ſcience brought within the power of men every bird productive of food or diverſion; and the air, which had been ſo long to them a barren deſart, became a fund of luxury and recreation.

Hawking is one of thoſe amuſements which is ſuitable to the majeſty of kings, and to the grandeur of nobility and higher gentry. It is eaſy to account for the air of dignity which now attends it.

The

The experience of one age tranſmitted to another enlarged and poliſhed the human mind; and men took hold of and improved every incident which tended to render life more eaſy and comfortable. As they proceeded in the culture of their intellectual powers, arts and trades were invented; and theſe, in their turn, promoted the advancement of civilization. Mankind, accordingly, withdrew themſelves gradually from their original, but precarious, way of living by hunting, and engaged in purſuits which at once ſoftened their tempers, and procured them a certain livelihood. Hawking, and the other ſports of the field, were indeed productive of much diverſion, but did not always defend them from the attacks of hunger; and therefore they were glad to exchange them for occupations, which never put them to fruitleſs toil.

Faulconry now ceaſing to be regarded by the lower ranks of men as neceſſary for the ſupport of life, fell intirely into the hands of perſons of birth, fortune, and leiſure. Kings and princes, nobles and gentlemen, purſued the ſports of the ſky, while their inferiors made carts, followed the plow, or bred cattle. Nothing could be more fortunate to ſociety than this revolution, which

was

was the cauſe of the gentility and greatneſs that are now aſcribed to hawking. It delivered this art of promoting ſtrength and agility, by the allurements of paſtime, from plebein uſe, and reflected on it the honour and magnificence of the illuſtrious perſonages who were devoted to it.

Monarchs now took the hawk under their protection, and ſenates enacted laws for the preſervation of its life. The ſame hands which ſwayed the ſceptres of nations, and ſtretched forth commanding truncheons to victorious hoſts, did not diſdain the weight of the keen-eyed bird. Sage lawgivers viewed it with admiration, and thought their wiſdom properly employed in ſecuring it from the folly and violence of men. The mews at Charingcroſs ſhew what edifices were reared for its reception; and officers, with honourable ſalaries, were appointed to take care of its welfare, and train it up for its functions. Faulconſworth, the city where it ſtill triumphs, demonſtrates the honour wherein it is ſtill held by all the princes of Europe, who maintain faulconers there to provide the fineſt birds. The manly pleaſures which flow from its ſpirit, rapidity, and tractableneſs, made it worthy of, and rewarded, all the attention of which it was the object. When it purſues

purſues its prey to the clouds—it draws up the eyes of all men after it, and fills their ſouls with the moſt agreeable fits of ſurpriſe. So exquiſite is the delight it then beſtows, that it robs ſovereigns of the obſequious regards of their ſoothing courtiers, and confounds the lords of the earth with the gazing and wondering crowd which ſurrounds them.

When we compare the ſtate of faulconry in our own days with what it was in ancient times, we muſt acknowledge and lament its ſad decay in the world. It is not difficult, and it may be worth while, to point out this deplorable revolution of ſporting in its cauſes.

It was when hounds and hawks were the only means whereby the recreations of the field could be enjoyed with dignity, that the reputation of faulconry was higheſt. It was then ſtudied and practiſed by men of rank and diſtinction in every country of Europe, where any thing of civilization exiſted. Game was to be found every where in the greateſt plenty, without the interpoſition of the legiſlature for its preſervation—hawks being adapted to give much ſport without much ſlaughter. But fire-arms were at length invented;—and this invention introduced as remarkable

able an alteration into ſporting as it did into the art of war. The ſportſman had hitherto drawn his pleaſure from obſerving the various ſurpriſing turns of the chace or flight; and when he obtained it, he was little mortified that the hare or woodcock made its eſcape at laſt from his hounds or hawk. This is the true idea of the pleaſure which the ſports of the field are qualified to afford; but this idea was gradually loſt after guns were made of eaſy carriage, and pointers trained to find out game. Sport came now to be confined intirely to the act of putting the game to death; and a man meaſured the livelineſs of his diverſion according to the number of animals he had ſlain. But ſtill no birds were yet killed which kept in cover; and therefore the game continued to be plentiful enough for every kind of ſporting. This new idea, however, of ſport, made hawking decline; becauſe, a good markſman could procure more of this bloody ſort of amuſement from his gun than from a hawk. It alſo helped very much to bring the latter into diſuſe, that the former could be kept with leſs expence and without any trouble. Though the pointer and gun were of conſiderable detriment to hawking, at their firſt introduction;

duction; yet they did not triumph over this diverſion, till the dexterity of the French lighted on the knack of ſhooting on wing, and taught it to their neighbours. This knack enabled every man to act up to his idea of ſporting, by the eaſe and certainty with which it enabled him to kill game: And thus it reached a blow to faulconry which has proved almoſt fatal to it. A man of a ſure eye may now kill or wound, in a few days, all the fowls of an extenſive moor; and by this means the gun has not only hurt faulconry, but alſo gone near to exterminate the game altogether. Hawking is at preſent confined to a few noblemen and gentlemen, who, with the ſpirit of their great anceſtors, inherit their maſculine taſte for the ſports of the field likewiſe.

The almoſt univerſal attachment of ſportſmen to the pointer and gun, ſhews their degeneracy from the elevated amuſements of their predeceſſors, in a light—a light, which I never open my eyes to, without all the anguiſh of the bittereſt regret. Could a faulconer, who lived two or three centuries ago—ah! that flouriſhing period of the princely ſport! burſt the chains of death, and get for a few days into the world—how it would grieve his manly heart, to obſerve the

the neglect into which the hawk is fallen! He would ſurvey the ſcenes of his former joys—and, with ſuch tears as ſpirits ſhed, mourn long over the melancholy ſtillneſs which reign over thoſe hills and dales which his own voice uſed to awake into life and exultation. His ſorrow would receive new pungency, when he perceived how ſcarce his brethren are in ſociety—how obſolete their language and hallowings are grown ——and that a price is ſet on the head of the hawk, as if this generous bird had been guilty of the moſt atrocious crimes. The manifeſt inferiority of our age to his in ſport, would fill his ſoul with indignation; he would fly from the hated ſight, to his reſidence in the other world, and carry tidings to the band of departed faulconers, which would communicate to them the angry emotions of his own breaſt.

Theſe reflections call up before me the majeſty and honour of ancient times, when every warlike baron prepared his hardy limbs for the toils of battle, by the heavenly recreation, and make me bewail my ſevere deſtiny, which has thrown me forward into a generation which it is dangerous to paint in its true colours. Every turreted caſtle rears itſelf to my fancy, ſurrounded

ed with hawks perching on their blocks in ſtately order, or echoing from its vaults, reſponſive to the adjacent rocks and lakes, with the chearing voices of their keepers, who direct their circling flights. Now the faulconer's voice, loud, full, and tremulous, uſhering in the morn, ſtrikes mine ear; which, from the morn, till the ſhades of evening deepen into night, animates the ſilent lonelineſs of foreſts, vales, and mountains, with tones of manly gladneſs. The numerous game, yet undiminiſhed by the gun's murderous violence, obſcures the face of heaven with multitude, and offers to the wondering eyes of the ſpectators all the varieties of ſport to be derived from aerial chace and conflict. In this glorious period, indolence and diſeaſe were not collected, at high expence, from every corner of the world; and luxury was a vice which did not vex the holy meekneſs of our prieſts, nor exaſperate the keen indignation of our ſatyriſts. The ſtimulating ſeductions of the table prolonged not the feaſt beyond nature's call; nor did the down and gorgeous furniture of the bed force voluptuous ſlumbers after the ſun had proclaimed the day. The plain and copious meal, by hunger ſeaſoned, and ſleep, profound as death, by wearineſs brought

on, flushed with ruddy health the looks of nobles and gentles; gave a spring and firmness to their steps; and swelled their souls with courage and resolution, which laughed at danger. They fought as they sported, when their country's wrongs demanded their sword, with keenness and alacrity, and preluded to the field of battle, while they attended the flights of their hawks. These were the times when a man, inspired with the sublime enthusiasm of faulconry, would wish to have lived!

Those who are at present addicted to the pointer and gun, are not, however, altogether inexcusable——though those who first forsook the hawk can claim no sort of apology. The former are come into the world when fowling is the prevailing diversion; and so they go along with the fashion, without once considering whether there be any other diversion more worthy of their pursuit. To take a sure aim, is celebrated as the grand accomplishment of a sportsman; and the number of fowls he kills in a day is always rehearsed to his praise. Accordingly, a young gentleman, who hears such discourses, studies the direction of his eye, as soon as he is able to manage a gun, and pants for this sort of bloody

bloody dexterity. He is extremely mortified when he returns unſucceſsful from the field, and received by his acquaintance with ſarcaſm and laughter; but, when his hand and eye have done their duty, he produces the feathered ſpoils of the air with ſmiling triumph, and is treated with reſpect by thoſe around him. Thus his taſte for ſporting is ſo early corrupted, that it can hardly ever be reformed afterwards; and he becomes the depraver of others in his turn.

Might I obtain leave to name epicures and poachers in the ſame page with ſportſmen, I would ſay, the preſent plan of the recreations of the field ſeems calculated only for thoſe people. The nice epicure, who picks felicity from the bones of fat partridges, poults, and woodcocks, is deeply intereſted in the death of theſe fowls, and prompted by his liquoriſh palate to kill as many of them as he can. The wandering poacher adopts the ſame conduct from another motive, that of drawing bread and brandy from ſauntering and idleneſs. The voluptuous epicure, therefore, and the worthleſs poacher, are furniſhed with reaſons to juſtify their love of ſhooting on wing, perfectly ſuitable to their reſpective characters—but by no means to that of a genuine

ſportſman,

ſportſman, who profeſſes to ſeek pleaſure, not death, from his amuſements.

There are two conſequences of the gun, which I would humbly recommend to the notice of gentlemen. *Firſt*, This engine ſets the vulgar on a level with them in point of the ſports of the field. And, *Secondly*, it threatens the utter deſtruction of the game. Here objects are at ſtake, and ready to be annihilated, of no leſs importance than the rank of our gentry, and the very exiſtence of their paſtimes. This is as true as it is alarming, and calls for an immediate remedy.

Firſt, With regard to the elevation of the vulgar to the rank of gentlemen, let the following obſervations meet with the attention they deſerve.

All men come into the world in nearly the ſame ſtate of weakneſs and ſtupidity. Place an infant prince among a ſcore of infant beggars, the former without ornaments, and the latter without rags, where is the man who could ſeparate his Highneſs from the louſy rogues at firſt ſight? It is not the make of the body, therefore, nor the ſtructure of the mind, which diſtinguiſhes the higher from the lower ranks of mankind.

mankind. Nature is equally beneficent to both gentlemen and peaſants in theſe reſpects; and theſe are as capable as thoſe of the poliſh of education and company. What then are the diſcriminating circumſtances between them? Why, a line of anceſtors remarkable for public and private virtue——opulent poſſeſſions originally conferred by the ſovereign in approbation of high merit—and a conduct regulated by the laws of bravery, generoſity, politeneſs, and juſtice. Theſe are the foundations of true gentility, and always beſtow it—whatever the man's birth is in whom they centre. Gentility is diſplayed to the world, ſometimes by an eaſy propriety, and ſometimes by a dazzling magnificence of lodging, table, dreſs, retinue, and amuſement—beyond the reach of people in the lower ſtations of life, but beheld by them with deference and reſpect. Now, could all men riſe to the ſplendors of gentility—the real gentleman would ſee his dignity loſt in the crowd, and himſelf, without notice, unleſs his ſuperior talents and virtues could command it. Whatever diverſion, therefore, he purſues, in which the vulgar can ſhare with him independently of his permiſſion, diminiſhes from the ſubmiſ-

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ſive regards they owe to his character and ſituation in life; and accordingly, it is obſervable, that a man of rank is treated with a freedom that approaches to familiarity in the field, by the ſame perſons who appear before him with the moſt baſhful aukwardneſs in his drawing-room. This difference of behaviour in different places is eaſily explained. The gentleman is ſeen in the field with his dog and a gun—an equipage in which they often ſee themſelves, and which, on that account, ſeems to ſhorten the diſtance between him and them; but the ſplendour of the drawing-room, and the elegance of his own dreſs, raiſe him in their eyes to his natural elevation, and ſo they come timid and abaſhed into his preſence.

Thus, the gun confounds all ranks and conditions of men, in as far as diverſion forms any difference among them; and, as thoſe in the inferior ſtations of life who ſport with it, are more numerous than thoſe in the higher, the meanneſs it derives from the former quite attaints the honour it might pretend to from the latter. All, all the common people are ſmit with the love of burning powder and ſcattering lead;—they roam over our hills and plains, treading in paths which an-

anciently were to elves and heroes only known; —they make the welkin ring with ignoble noiſe, burſt from ruſty firelocks vile. Every bowing ſhopkeeper, and pale-faced mechanic, get them ſhort coats, and old muſkets, and reprobate ſetters—and ſteal away once or twice a week in maſquerade from their lawful buſineſs, to make war on the beaſts of the field and the fowls of the air. The moor-herds alſo look after their cattle in the ſame accoutrements; and the farmer, ſtimulated by the recital of their exploits, deſerts his plow, and ſtrides over the heath in queſt of adventures. Hence it happens, that a well-bred man, when he fancies he deſcries a noble lord whom he wants to ſalute, and his attendants at a diſtance, is ſurpriſed to fall in at laſt with a moving group of taylors, barbers, and ſhoemakers, clumſily traveſtied into a ridiculous ſimilitude of men of vivacity, fire, and blood. By a miſtake of the ſame kind, when he imagines he ſees one of his neighbours on the ſummit of a remote hill whom he wiſhes to join, he is ſadly diſappointed, on coming up, to diſcover a weather-beaten, thick-boned, mutton-fiſted clown, with a muſket japanned over with ſoot laid acroſs his ſtooping ſhoulders. Since, therefore, the diverſions

verſions of gentlemen are deſcended to the vulgar—inſtead of marking gentility, they degrade it—and expoſe it to ſome ridicule, by ſuch whimſical rencounters as I juſt now mentioned.

It is my way, when I want to know the nice point of propriety in any caſe, to look into the conduct of the ladies, in which I ſeldom miſs finding ſomething which directs me to it. And I chearfully embrace this opportunity of mentioning it to the glory of the ſex, that, where decency, and delicacy, and dignity of ſentiment and behaviour are in queſtion—they never fail to decide, with the moſt beautiful preciſion, on the right ſide. The rapid ſucceſſion of their faſhions in dreſs demonſtrates how tenacious the ladies are of the characteriſtics of their rank, which are in hourly danger of being vulgariſed by the too quick imitation of ſervile and mean females. Whenever this happens, they ſtudy a new dreſs—and thereby cut off all compariſon between themſelves and chamber-maids and cinder-winches, now proud of inventions which their ſuperiors have abandoned.

This behaviour of the ladies is truly noble and ſpirited; and the application of it to the preſent caſe is ſo obvious, that I need not enlarge on it.

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As they leave off the uſe of any faſhion which the vanity of the lower part of the ſex has invaded, gentlemen will ſee, that they ought to abſtain from a diverſion which has acquired an air of meanneſs from having fallen among the dregs of the people. Faulconry is ready to afford them an entertainment infinitely above what the pointer and gun can beſtow; an entertainment becoming a gentleman; inacceſſible to the populace; and productive of the higheſt luxury of ſporting. Nor can gentlemen inſinuate themſelves ſo agreeably any other way, as by faulconry, into the good graces of the ladies, who are all fond of this ancient, noble, and delightful recreation.

It is my felicity to be known to ſeveral women, whoſe diſtinguiſhed virtues are honourable to their ſex, and ornamental to their rank, who favour the hawks with their preſence, and regard their flights with the ſprightlieſt admiration. From them the ſports of the ſky receive a delicate poliſh, and the moſt joyous vivacity. The hardy, nimble, ſonorous faulconer, feels his ſport moſt exhilarating and delightful, when refined gallantry prompts his endeavours to pleaſe female youth, beauty, and innocence. The ani-

mated ſpring of his limbs, and the lively current of his blood, deſpiſe the chilling flood, the ſteep mountain, the craggy rock, the trembling bog, the prickly thicket, when his heart beats eager to ſhew the charmers the wonders of his art. Thus the ladies, wherever they appear, inſpire an ambition for excellence; and their approving ſmiles richly reward every effort the men can make to entertain them.

The ſecond conſequence of the gun which I mentioned is, the deſtruction of the game; not indeed by gentlemen who have a legal title to the ſports of the field, but by thoſe who confer on themſelves the honour of that appellation, and by inferior poachers. The illicit uſe of the gun is at preſent riſen to ſuch a daring pitch that, unleſs the laws, wiſely provided againſt it, be put in execution without mercy, there ſhall not, in a few years, be found a poult or partridge in the whole kingdom to draw a trigger or fly a hawk at. But neither this, nor the confuſion of ranks, are the only bad conſequences, though, to be ſure, very deplorable, which are to be apprehended from the prevailing paſſion of all men for the gun. I look forward, with fear and anguiſh, to another conſequence, be-

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fore which theſe muſt loſe all their importance—I mean, the ruin of our happy conſtitution in both church and ſtate, which Heaven avert! Shooting on wing trains up an incredible number of ſtout fellows to the knowledge of fire-arms, and to the love of idleneſs and low debauchery. From theſe there ariſes, in peaceable times, a conſtant ſucceſſion of ſmugglers and robbers, to ſupply the places of thoſe delinquents who are prematurely cut off by the immoderate uſe of brandy or of the gallows. Now, ſhould it be the affliction of a diſtant poſterity to be viſited with a civil war, theſe rogues would not find it very difficult to advance to the top of their vocations, and commence open plunderers and profeſſed cut-throats. They are not to be compared to the fair and honeſt ſoldier, who meets you on equal terms, who, while he ſeeks your life for the ſake of public ſafety and juſtice, bravely ventures his own to your indignation. They, on the contrary, will attack your property in the defenceleſs hour of ſleep, or ſhoot you from behind a buſh, while you are enjoying the ſweet ſerenity of a ſummer's morning in your night-gown and ſlippers.

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This conſequence of poaching is, I confeſs, but a mere poſſibility at preſent—and am willing enough to join with every body in regarding it as a very chimerical one too. But ſtill I cannot get it out of my head, that the cauſes which at laſt brought on the ruin of many empires and kingdoms, now to be found only in hiſtory, were at firſt no more than poſſibilities, as little dreaded as the one under conſideration. Such, therefore, as are big with horrible calamities, cannot be too warily guarded againſt; nor will a wiſe nation, who have at heart the felicity of diſtant generations, look on them with indifference. People are too apt to read ancient hiſtory, without learning that ſmall cauſes have often given origin to the moſt terrible revolutions in human affairs. Shooting on wing is, in the opinion of people of ſuperficial reflection, productive of no other effect whatever than the death of a hare or of a bird, without ever extending their views to the aweful conſequences mentioned above. Thus, the man who plants trees little imagines that ſome one of the ſeedlings which he carries in his hand, may be deſtined to furniſh the pillory or gibbet, on which his great grandſon is to ſuffer ignominy or death. In the ſame manner,

manner, the man who gives his infant-ſon a dice-box to rattle for his amuſement, is not aware that he may thereby infuſe into his young heart a paſſion for gaming, which ſhall one day reduce him to beggary, to the high-way, and to the devil.

Since then poaching is ruinous to gentility, and to the game, and may be ſo to the nation alſo, the intereſts of faulconry and of poſterity call loudly for every man of weight and authority to ſuppreſs that enormity. Noblemen and gentlemen ought to encourage informations againſt poachers of all kinds, to bring them to immediate conviction, and make them feel the ſalutary rigour of the laws.

This procedure, and I obſerve with pleaſure the ſpirit wherewith it is attended to in this county, will at once ſave the game from extermination, and poſterity from the perdition which may be cauſed by an army of markſmen, always ready to ſtart forth, as ſoon as rebellion ſhall ſound her trumpet. Further, by wrenching the gun out of plebeian hands, and putting it into thoſe of gentlemen alone, this engine will be diveſted of its preſent diſhonour, and acquire an air of dignity. Then it may be uſed by thoſe who

who either have no taſte for faulconry, or are unequal to the expence of that glorious diverſion, or would throw the pleaſure of variety into their ſports.

I proceed now to lay before my kind and indulgent readers ſome particulars relative to faulconry, which have been long hid from our ſportſmen, either in the libraries of the curious, or in remote countries. I hope that, while he peruſes the following ſtories, he will conſtantly reflect they bring to his knowledge matters which happened in times and places very different from his own. There is a verſatility in the human imagination which always hurries on to change the ſituations of things, and to beſtow on them new arrangements, which however it is reſtleſs till it have altered to others, that in their turn muſt yield to new ſucceſſors. Hence it is, that the politics, manners, languages, learning, dreſs, cookery, buildings, ſports, and opinions of our times, are ſo different from thoſe which obtained among the ancients. There were many things common among them, which now ſeem ſo entirely oppoſite to our taſte and practice, that we can hardly give credit to them; and, were it not for the authority of the writers who record them,

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ſhould be put on the long liſt of fables and romances. What I have remarked with regard to antiquity is to be applied to the preſent ſtate of remote nations, which are, in numberleſs cuſtoms, as contrary to us as if they had exiſted fifty thouſand years ago. The candid and intelligent reader will, therefore, grant it to be exceeding unfair, to argue the abſurdity or impoſſibility of ancient or foreign faſhions and events, from their oppoſition to what he ſees in vogue among his own neighbours. Would it not be too raſh a concluſion that, becauſe the ancients had no ſmoke-jacks, they were unacquainted with roaſt-beef? or, becauſe the Turks wear no hats, they go all bare-headed? While my reader avoids this ſort of falſe criticiſm, he will not heſitate to give his hearty aſſent to the following narration;—but, if any thing appear too powerful for his belief, I encourage him to conſult the authors whence it is extracted. I am not of the mind of your ſlanderous tattling goſſips, who always pretend to be bound to conceal the names of the very good authorities on which they tell their venomous tales; when in fact they have not any better authority than their own diabolical imaginations to produce. No, no—where I dare not, or am aſhamed

aſhamed to produce my authority, I ſhall ever more think it manly to ſuppreſs the darkling ſtory, which even thoſe who gave it do not chuſe to acknowledge.

Here I might mention, to very good purpoſe, Nimrod and Eſau, as the earlieſt ſportſmen of whom we have any knowledge, in proof of the antiquity of ſporting; and, in order to confer on it that important value which the flux of time, even independent of every other conſideration, is well known to beſtow on families, as well as on books, medals, and ſtatues.

When theſe gentlemen lived, the world was a good deal more than two thouſand years old; a tract of time in which the induſtrious could hardly fail to light on all the different ſports of the field, which were their own ſerious buſineſs. It is true, a mighty deluge ſwept away out of the world all the human race, whoſe depravity rendered them unworthy of exiſting any longer on the face of the earth. None were ſaved except Noah and his family, whoſe virtues preſerved them from the general devaſtation, to repeople the deſolate globe. They could not but have ſeen and underſtood the antideluvian diverſions; and theſe would ſometimes enter into their converſations, and

and be learned thence by their children. If we may ſuppoſe they were acquainted with hound-hunting, or killing fowls with bow and arrow—there is no reaſon for denying them the knowledge of hawking. As animals of almoſt all kinds increaſe faſter than men, theſe laſt, yet few in number, would be obliged to take every method to hinder the too quick multiplication of the former. One of theſe methods, very probably, was hawking—an amuſement which, once invented, is ſo ſublime and noble, that it would never fall into entire deſuetude, and muſt therefore have deſcended, among the other ſports of the field, to Nimrod and Eſau, in whoſe hands it would loſe none of its dignity. We cannot eaſily, at this diſtance of time, tell exactly at what period of the antideluvian world children gave the original hint of faulconry, nor lay down the rules according to which the patriarchs trained their hawks. If the two pillars were extant, the one of brick, and the other of ſtone, on which Seth inſcribed the prophecies of Adam, and the knowledge of his own days, for the edification of poſterity, perhaps I ſhould be able to throw ſome light on theſe curious and abſtruſe points. It cannot be imagined, without derogating from

the character of that excellent and primaeval gentleman, that he omitted faulconry among the many ſciences which found a place on his pillars; and it will ever be deplored by all genuine ſportſmen, as an irreparable misfortune, that they were not able to withſtand the corroding power of years. This loſs would have been leſs ſeverely felt, had Nimrod or Eſau put pen to paper, and written, in their leiſure-hours, treatiſes of faulconry, containing their own practice, and that of their anceſtors, for the inſtruction of future ſportſmen. Since, however, the pillars of Seth are now periſhed, and we know of no books written by Nimrod or Eſau, the reader will permit me to ſay, that the patriarchs, if they followed nature in their practice, muſt have trained their hawks nearly on the principles which are delivered in the enſuing treatiſe; and, if they did not follow nature, time has done little harm in depriving us of their blunders.

Hawking is not ſpoken of by any author, with preciſion, till the beginning of the ninth century, when Arambombamboberus reigned over the vaſt empire of Trebizond, and Neſtorius flouriſhed in poetry. Thoſe who want to know more of this extraordinary prince, may gratify their

their curioſity by conſulting the authors who have written his hiſtory, when they have time to rummage any great library where they are preſerved. It is well known that the fineſt collection of theſe authors on earth ſtands in the Grand Sultan's library; and may be readily found, as they are on the ſame ſhelf with the complete copy of Livy, for a tranſcript of which Lewis XIV. offered an hundred thouſand ducats. It is not as a ſovereign, but as a ſportſman, that I am to conſider the Emperor Arambombambobe-rus, the character wherein he is alſo conſidered by the poet Neſtorius, from whom * I ſhall tranſcribe his method of ſporting. It is of no conſequence to the unlearned to know the life of this poet; and it would be affrontive to the learned to ſuppoſe they are ignorant of it. However, if any body is very curious to peruſe it, they will obtain ample ſatisfaction from the famous Frederick van Boſs, to whom the world is indebted for an accurate and ſplendid edition of the

* The pronoun *I*, in this place, is to be underſtood of the tranſlator of the following poem, not of the author.

the works of this ſublime poet. He wrote on hunting, hawking, and fiſhing, in three ſeveral poems; and it is from the beginning of the ſecond that the following tranſlation is made, which I lay before the public, not as a critic, but as a faulconer. I well know that a poet cannot be properly rendered into another language, but by another poet, of a temper and genius ſimilar to his own; but I hope the learned reader will paſs an indulgent eye over my miſtakes, on account of my zeal to entertain him, and forbear to cenſure too ſeverely a man who has ſpent moſt of his time in the field, for inelegancies of ſtile. There are ſome Greek expreſſions in this poet, about the ſenſe of which I am in ſome doubt; and I ſhould conſider it as a great favour if the learned in that language would clear them up to me in private letters, with their uſual tenderneſs and humanity. My errors, alas! flow not from obſtinacy, but from weakneſs; and he is my friend who helps me to correct them.—Let us now attend to the poet!

" The fields courſed o'er with horſe, and hound, and horn, and the ſurrounding hills ſhaken from their deepeſt roots by thundering voices of the hunter-train—ſpurning the earth, and to the ſky

ſky aſcending, aerial ſports, I now prepare to ſing. Propitious ſmile on my ſublime attempt, and ſpreading out thy wings, O ſoaring goddeſs! from where Apollo pours the chearful day, to where he plunges in the briny wave, ſpring with me into the empyreal regions, and ſupport my too adventurous flight. To my poetic eyes, O towering goddeſs, thy beauteous form preſent, arrayed as when thou iſſueſt forth among aſſembled deities, who all in jovial mood neglect the care of univerſal nature, and ſeek to ſolace themſelves with the delights of faulconry, or on the lofty ſummit of Olympus, or on the frozen ſides of Caucaſus, or along Tempe's flowery plains. Yes! yes! I now behold thee majeſtic, thy head adorned with bonnet of azure dye, to which the oſtrich has added his waving plumage, gorgeous——thy body apparelled in veſt and mantle ſhort of livelieſt green, at once diſplaying female elegance and manly vigour in ſweet proportion blended—thy limbs encircled from the ſkirts of thy garments down to thy knees, in the colours of heaven's arch, duly mingled, are free to climb the mountain's brow, or fly through the windings of the vale ——and on thy left hand ſits erect the bird of mighty Jove, in conſcious dignity, as ſovereign

of

of the feathered race, reigning wide from the abodes of men, up to thrones of the immortal gods.

" The ſun had juſt from the eaſtern gates of light burſt forth, and his diverging beams ſtreaked the ſcattered clouds with dazzling gold, and tinged the limpid dew on the mountain's top with the various luſtre of all the gems which ſparkle on the taper fingers of wealthy maidens, when the might of Arambombamboberus, Trebizond's dread and unconquerable monarch, iſſued from the lofty portal of his ſtately palace, to ſeek the pleaſures of the princely ſport, by flying at the bounding deer the impetuous king of birds. Arambombamboberus, whoſe bulk and ſtrength would more then match the bulk and ſtrength of ten heroes, bore in his hand an eagle, hatched in the frightful clifts of the Monomotapian mountains, and in ſize proportionable to his imperial lord. Bold defiance flaſhed from his piercing eye, and death, in all its horrors, ſeemed prepared to ſpring from his maſſy beak and graſping talons, filling the various tribes that cut the yielding air with cowering dread, and tremenduous even to human ſight and power. His hood, lined with the ſofteſt velvet, was adorned with bur-

burniſhed gold. From the top aroſe a tuft of ſeed pearls, pure as the dew on the bending graſs, ſtrung on ſilver threads; and, from the gold below, ſhone a blaze of rubies, topazes, and diamonds, that Phoebus, in his meridian glory, might contemplate with envy and admiration. On his legs tinkled twenty ſilver bells, whoſe ſounds, clear, loud, and melodious, emulated the muſic of the celeſtial ſpheres, and poured harmony over the liſtening country, to a compaſs of five miles around his flight, filling every mortal with ecſtatic wonder and tranſport. With a collar of gold, ſtuck at equal diſtances with ſharpeſt ſpikes of ſteel, his neck was armed; and on his breaſt was fixed a plate of the ſame precious metal, where, amidſt feſtoons of flowers admirably emboſſed, was ſeen Arambombamboberus's awful name. Thus fortified, he regarded with diſdain the haggard eagles of Monomotapa that dared to encounter him in etherial ſpaces, and made them, after the firſt onſet, fly from his fierce impetuoſity with rapid ſpeed, aſtoniſhing the deafened world with their horrible ſhrieks. Such was the coſtly furniture of the imperial eagle, which, as he perched on his maſter's fiſt, reared his lofty head ſeven yards in height from his

his pounces, and, by his hearkening attitude, ſeemed impatient for his prey.

" The Trebizonian monarch, attended by an hundred and twenty faulconers, ſwift of foot, and of lungs indefatigable, and alſo by three hundred and ſixty youths to beat the cover, appeared among his joyous train in towering majeſty—as a ſturdy oak that has braved the rage of an hundred winters rears its ſpreading top above a plantation of young trees, the tender nurſlings of a few ſummers. Away they hie to the field, two hundred ſure-noſed ſpaniels traverſing the grounds, and ſoon arrive at the deſtined ſcene of the ſport, for which their eager hearts panted, impatient.

" That day the winds had confined themſelves to their caverns, all except the ſoft-breathing Zephyr, who gently ſhook the leaves of the trees, and curled the glaſſy ſurface of the pool with his tepid breezes; but too weak was Zephyr to lift into the air the vaſt weight of the imperial eagle, and give his far extending pinions room to play. Yet this unſeaſonable calm could not obſtruct the Emperor's pleaſure; for what can reſiſt the will ſupreme of the great Arambombamboberus? This mighty prince had ordered

ordered to be drawn to the field, by forty horſes, a vaſt pair of bellows made of the hides of three hundred bullocks, which he had ſlain in hecatombs to Æolus the bluſtering tyrant of the tempeſts, at his acceſſion 80 years before to the throne of the auguſt Barkaranglamkingpinkodibodicus, the potent founder of the Trebizonian empire. Theſe bellows, firm, cloſe, and capacious, could, at any time, ſupply the place of the natural winds, and throw the atmoſphere into all the confuſion of the moſt utrageous ſtorms; nor are they wanting who do not heſitate to aver, that they even gathered the clouds, and drew down overwhelming deluges of rain from the parched firmament.

"The dogs had now, by their call, rouſed the timid herds of deer from their cover, and made them fly lighter than the breeze up and down the foreſt, ſeeking ſafety from the dangers with which they were attacked on every ſide. The air was at the ſame time darkened by flocks of birds which were purſued by three hundred hawks of noble eyries—juſt as when the wary crows, that have long frequented the ancient pines wherein ſome venerable caſtle is emboſomed, deſcrying the aiming archer at a diſtance, riſe up on hover-

ing wing in a ſable cloud over their habitations, and in a twilight dim involve all objects underneath them. The hollowing of ſuch a numerous train of faulconers, the whooping of the youths who beat the cover, and the ringing of four hundred bells of ſhrilleſt ſound, made the hills, the vales, and the all-ſurrounding vault of heaven, echo to each other, and animated the air with gleeſome noiſe and uproar.

"The imperial bellows, bellows that not the mountain-cheeked Boreas might contend againſt, without the dread of ſeeing himſelf out-blaſted, was now ſet up by an hundred men, and prepared to ſhew Æolus he was not god of all the winds, but held a juriſdiction over them, ſhared with the illuſtrious Arambombamboberus. This magnanimous potentate placed himſelf a furlong from the brazen muzzle of the prodigious machine, ſtanding a little aſide, to receive the full hurricane on the breaſt of his eagle, on which he was to riſe with ſpread ſails to the ſpacious ſky. Thrice proclamation was made by the far-ſounding voice of Arambombamboberus, that all the company ſhould retreat behind the bellows, leſt the blaſt ſhould raiſe his brave faulconers and aſſiſtants into the air, and, letting them afterwards

fall,

fall, daſh them in pieces againſt the earth. No ſooner did the well-known accents of their lord reach their ear, than, ſenſible of the danger of lingering behind, they all ran with utmoſt ſpeed from the woods, and hills, and vales, whither their ardour for the ſport had carried them, and, attended by their faithful dogs, ſoon arrived breathleſs, where the vaſt bulk of the bellows roſe conſpicuous to direct their ſteps. Thus, when the north-weſt wind obſcures the meridian effulgence of the ſun with blackening clouds, and moiſtens the air with chilly dampneſs ſhed from his ſable wings, the laborious bees, preſcious of the gathering ſtorm, forſake the alluring ſweetneſs of every flower, and with hollow murmurs, croud for ſhelter to their hives from the impending deluge, wiſely preferring ſafety to voluptuouſneſs. Arambombamboberus, looking round from his gigantic height, and ſeeing his men and dogs all ſecure, ordered, with a voice that never met with diſobedience, the moſt vigorous hundred of his train to work the bellows, that his eagle, impatient for blood and ſport, might poiſe himſelf in air, and ſcatter conſternation throughout the hills and foreſts. Quick as the imperial mandate ſtruck their ear, they ſeize, with ſinewy hands,

the long and maſſy levers wherewith the engine was wrought, and uniting all their force, unfolded its manly circling plies, and the numerous hinges of its frames creaked grating as they turned.

"Now, with redoubled efforts and ſwelling muſcles, they pull down the mighty levers, and ſtreight a tempeſt burſts from the bllows with hideous din, and rages with boundleſs fury over ſea and land. Trees are torn from their roots, the ſtanding corns are diſſipated over the face of the earth, and a fleet of Smyrnian merchantmen are daſhed againſt the pitylcſs rocks. Now the nymphs run up and down the mountains howling for their ruined ſhades; the huſbandmen, with loud lamentations, implore from heaven their vaniſhed hopes; and the ſailors, whom the boiſterous ſea had ſpared to want and miſery, bemoan their calamities in anguiſh and deſpair. This blaſt, ſo deſtructive to every thing elſe within its violence, no ſooner reached the eagle's breaſt, than his lord, with a quick hand, ſtruck his hood, and gave him to behold the refulgent beams of Phoebus, which his race alone can eye with ſteady gaze. The mighty bird, poſterity will doubt of the wondrous truth! expanded his

long

long wings, full fifteen yards, and, mounting on the artificial ſtorm, ſoon got to a height from which he commanded a view, not of the Trebizonian realms only, but alſo of half the ſpacious globe. Happy in being reſtored to liberty, and to the bleſſed light of day, he expreſſed the ſatisfaction of his heart in playful gyrations which encompaſſed a thouſand kingdoms, now gliding ſerene on his motionleſs pinions, and then cutting his lofty way through the air, out-thundering the voice of Jove at every ſtroke of his wings.

"But bloodleſs flight could not long rejoice the high-ſpirited bird, thirſting for conqueſt and renown. He darted his far-ſeeing eyes downwards, and beheld, among the ſwift inhabitants of the foreſt, a buck, whoſe ſleek coat, ſwelling haunches, and branching horns, tempted his gorge, and provoked his valour to ſeize him as his prey. Meanwhile the multitude of faulconers and aſſiſtants, but chiefly the towering Arambombamboberus, whoſe voice alone he obeyed, gazed on his wheelings and traverſing through the air with high admiration and loud applauſe, and were racked with impatience to ſee him exert his vaſt ſtrength and undaunted courage. Nor did

did they wait long; for, contracting his wings, and clapping them almoſt cloſe to his ſides, he ſhot obliquely through the air, quick—as a meteor darts acroſs the ſtarry heavens, when the moon denies her glare to benighted mortals—— and, in his rapid career, ſeizing the buck, that little dreamed his fate was ſo near, he, with loud-reverberating wing, ſoon regained his former height, exulting in his proweſs and ſucceſs. The Trebezonian eagles, of which he had ſacrificed many to his wanton cruelty, deſcrying him thus burdened with his prey, would take this opportunity of avenging on him the blood of their kindred, by aſſaulting him in a condition which they fondly imagined would make him yield to their combined ſtrength, and give up a life which continually threatened their own deſtruction.

"Infatuated birds, and doomed to multiply the triumphs of the Monomotapian eagle! As whizzes through the gloomy ſky the blaſt which preceeds the rolling thunder, and ſtartles the thoughtful traveller—ſo were heard the ſounding wings of many a wrathful eagle, flying to pour its hotteſt vengeance on the common tyrant of the air. The battle was maintained on both ſides, at firſt, with almoſt equal advantage; but

but the eagles increaſed ſo faſt in number, and fought with ſo much impetuoſity, that the event became doubtful to mortal eyes. And now the monarch trembled for his bird, leſt, overpowered by ſo great an army of enraged foes, he ſhould receive the ſtroke of death, and fall down at his feet a lifeleſs carcaſe. But Jove, the venerable ſire of gods and men, placing the furious combatants in the eternal ſcales of fate, had adjudged the victory to the mighty bird of Africa, which weighed down all his enemies, as a rock out-weighs the pebble that is poliſhed by the murmuring brook. The eagle of Arambombamboberus held his prey in one foot, and fought with the other as long as he could; but his adverſaries preſſing thicker and bolder on him, he retreated, defending himſelf till he was over the place where his maſter was an anxious ſpectator of the engagement, and then dropt the buck hard by him in token of his love and homage to his protector. They, perceiving him to yield, thought the day their own; and the cowards, which had hovered about the ſkirts of the combat, now flocked to the purſuit, in order to ſhare in the glory of a victory which they had done nothing

to

to gain. But the imperial bird, now free from every incumbrance, ſprang, keen as the gleam of lightening, into the hoteſt of the battle, ſending, at every ſtroke of his talons, one of his foes ſhrieking to the ſhades below, to bemoan the folly of waging ſuch unequal war. In vain they tried to tear his neck and gorge, which were defended by his collar and breaſt-plate;—by the raſh attempt, they only put themſelves within his reach, whence no creature worthy of his reſentment, or proper to aſſuage his hunger, ever eſcaped with life. As thick as fall the flakes of ſnow on the Heperborean mountains, where rein-deer, ſecure from the Monomotapian eagle's ravenous gorge, tranſport the traveller ſudden as the illuſion of a dream o'er the frozen ſurface—ſo thick fell the carcaſes of the Trebizonian eagles from the ſky, and ſtrewed the fields with ghaſtly images of death. The remaining few, ſtruck with a panic by the fate of their unhappy friends, ſought ſafety in ſpeedy flight, and winged their way, full of mingled ſorrow and revenge, to hide their heads in their native rocks. The eagle of Arambombamboberus, left maſter of the ſky, wheeled round the plains of war thrice, in token of his victory; and then, lured by a buck's head held

held up to him by the monarch, he darted immediately down to his hand, and received the recompence and applauſe he had ſo nobly won by his ſpirit and bravery."

This poem I have tranſlated as faithfully as my knowledge of the original Greek would give me leave; and if this attempt, with all the faults of it, which men of brighter parts than mine will readily diſcover, ſhall prompt ſome able hand to publiſh Neſtorius in a poetical dreſs to the world, I will indulge the vanity of regarding my pains as not uſeleſs to public entertainment. If my brother ſportſmen receive a pleaſure from this extract equal to what I have always derived from it, there is no doubt but that ſome one of them, in whom a liberal education has given the laſt poliſh to a fine genius, will gratify his unlearned brethren with an elegant verſion of the whole. The man muſt be of a phlegmatic conſtitution whoſe ſoul would not open to the raptures ariſing from the grand ideas of an extenſive country, diverſified into ſwelling hills covered with foreſts; into winding vallies divided by rivulets ſhaded with trees; into opening plains, where villages and arable grounds, and irregular hedges, interſperſed with

ſtandards, amuſe the eye, and where the proſpect is terminated by rocks and mountains, riſing beyond each other in wild and awful confuſion, till the blue miſts, gently aſcending from them, blend their vaniſhing tops with the ſky. Then add to theſe the raptures flowing from the ideas of ſuch a vaſt train of faulconers and aſſiſtants, under the command, and animated to exert their beſt abilities by the preſence of the gigantic Arambombamboberus; himſelf keen in the enjoyment of the princely diverſion, and ready to pour out his liberalities on ſuch as diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their chearfulneſs, dexterity, and ſpirit. Then to think of ſuch a great number of dogs, ſpringing game at every ſtep to two hundred hawks, circling through the air, and eager to attack the fowls as faſt as they roſe from the thickets.—Then the battle of the eagles, where was ſeen all the variety of ſtratagem and fury which the nobleſt of birds could diſplay againſt the largeſt of their race.—Then the varying paſſions, and exclamations, and geſtures of the beholders, according to the different turns of the combat, and their different intereſts in the oppoſite ſides.—Heavens! it is impoſſible to call up ſo glorious a ſcene in the imagination,

gination, without feeling all the tranſporting raptures, which the ſublimeſt ſport is capable of inſpiring—theſe ideas are full of the moſt exalted enthuſiaſm.

I proceed further to lay before the reader the ſtate of faulconry in Perſia and Hindoſtan, as it was in the days of the ſapient and anecdotical Abul'farage, who has given us the following account of it. This writer was, about the beginning of the thirteenth century, born in Malatiah, a city near the ſource of the Euphrates, and flouriſhed in phyſic, theology, and hiſtory; but it is to the laſt that he owes his renown. Every body who has read his works in the proper edition muſt know, that the Sophi of Perſia, as well as Arambombamboberus, kills deer by his hawks, hawks of egregious ſtrength and bulk. "This monarch," ſays Abul, "of illuſtrious pedigree, diſdaining groveling paſtimes, purſues the princely diverſions of the ſky, exalted as his high ſtation, and towering as his glorious ſoul. The way of training hawks to deer in Perſia is eaſy and natural, and may be followed by any perſon who poſſeſſes a deer-park. For this purpoſe the Sophi's faulconers employ a wooden lure, made exactly into the form of a deer's head, covered neatly with

with the skin ſtripped off the head of that animal, and adorned with a pair of comely horns. Between theſe, and under the ſkin, is firſt, a thin cuſhion, on which they place the hawk, and wherein ſhe ſinks her pounces; and the ſockets of the eyes below are filled with the eyes of bulls, horſes, cows, camels, or of any other large creatures. They teach the hawk to fly to this lure; and, as ſhe ſtands between the horns, to bend down her head, and tear out with her beak the eyes that are crammed in the ſockets. But, in order to accuſtom the bird to bear the motions of the deer, which are exceeding violent, when the creature feels his eyes attacked, they jog the lure gently at firſt, while ſhe feeds on it, and gradually accelerate the concuſſions to the utmoſt quickneſs. When they have brought her to bear all the diſturbance they can give her by the ſtrength of their arms, they fix the lure on the circumference of a wheel, which at the beginning they turn ſoftly, in contrary directions, and proceed gradually to the moſt ſudden jerks. This is the moſt difficult and ſevere part of the training of their hawks, and moſt of them are killed by it; but a hawk which gets ſafe through it, will keep her balance amidſt the

moſt

moſt irregular ſhocks any deer can give her. A hawk bred to this perfection is accordingly above all price, and the richeſt preſent in the power of the Sophi to make to his beſt eſteemed allies. He receives it himſelf from his principal faulconer with the higheſt pomp and exultation, and his ſubjects enter into his ſatisfaction with the ſincereſt and moſt ſenſible demonſtrations of joy.

"O how generous and cordial are your inferiors to you! ye great, whom birth or accident, as often as merit, places on the luminous ſummits of life, and entitles to indulgence and reſpect! How ſolitary and inſipid were your enjoyments, did they not render them ſocial, and exhilarating, and poignant by their ſmiles and participation! This chearful concurrence of theirs with your felicity, conſtitutes them your beſt friends and benefactors, and gives them a claim to your moſt active gratitude—which your hearts, diſſipated by their kindneſſes, often forget to acknowledge. Yes, you are dependent on thoſe among whom you ſtand ſo eminent, and bound to return to their boſoms ſome enlivening drops of that chearfulneſs and feſtivity which they pour without meaſure into yours. May therefore peeviſhneſs everlaſting

laſting tear the ſoul, and gloomineſs everlaſting darken the viſage of the paultry wretch of opulence and diſtinction, who, with unaccommodating ſourneſs of aſpect, cenſures and damps the harmleſs mirth of his inferiors, who ſeek oblivion of their toils and anxieties in gaity, jeſt, and copious laughter! Thus prayeth moſt devoutly Gregorius Abul'farage Ebn Aaron Ebn Hocima."

The readineſs of the lower ranks of men to go along with the happineſs of their ſuperiors, is ſtrikingly exemplified in the conduct of the Perſians, whenever their monarch receives a high-bred hawk; and I ſhall deſcribe it for the amuſement of ſuch as were never in Perſia upon theſe grand occaſions. The Great Faulconer of the Crown, having bred a hawk to full perfection, dreſſes himſelf in the richeſt apparel, over which he throws the magnificent badges of his office, and walks, accompanied with all his inferior officers, to preſent it to his ſovereign. The Sophi, adverti-ſed of his coming, receives him ſitting on his throne, which is ſurrounded with many a proſtrate lord, and takes the noble bird on his fiſt, where he ſurveys her with looks of joyous ſatisfaction. The moment his ſmiles anounce his felicity, the royal

royal palace reſounds with a concert of violins, hautboys, clarinets, trumpets, baſſoons, flutes, and kettle-drums—in which the calls and hollowings of faulconers are artfully interwoven with the muſic, and expreſſed with ſurpriſing livelineſs by the inſtruments. The nobles about the throne then riſe up, and copy into their own faces, the alacrity which brightens and endears that of the prince; and each of them having admired and praiſed the wonderful hawk according their rank, the laſt returns it to the Great Faulconer. Then they offer his Majeſty their humble felicitations on the fortunate event, and pray that every hour may dance onward to him, ſcattering ſuch, and greater inſtances of good fortune. How great does every trifle appear when it is connected with a great man? He himſelf grows blind to its real inſignificancy, and thinks it as important as the unconcerned part of the world know it to be frivolous, by his viewing it continually in the flattery of thoſe who find their intereſt in multiplying the number of his agreeable dreams. The value of moſt things depends on the light and ſituation wherein they are viewed, not on what they are in themſelves—at leaſt with regard to the Sophi's hawk, this is the caſe. The ceremony

remony of preſenting the hawk being ended, with infinite delight to every mortal who ſhared in the honour of it, the firſt ſecretary of ſtate diſpatches couriers to every part of the monarchy to inform the lieges of the ineſtimable acquiſition made by their ſovereign, that they mingle their joys with his. This news fires the loyalty of the different provinces, ſtraight——and they delay not a moment to ſend ambaſſadors, who have approved wiſdom and diſcretion in making bows and compliments, to congratulate his Majeſty on this immenſe addition to his royal bliſs. Univerſal mirth prevails over the Perſian dominions, demonſtrated by bonefires, illuminations, vollies, carouſals, and feaſts—feaſts, not of your ordinary cookery, but where you ſhall ſee twenty different diſhes of opium dreſſed with laudanum and poppy ſauce. Every mortal who can afford it is now arrayed in a new ſuit of green, with the image of a hawk ſet with carbuncles fixed on the tip of the noſe; and the poor, to come as near their betters as they can, ſtitch on their rags ſuch an enormous quantity of graſs and leaves, that they reſemble ſo many moving loads of hay. The baſhfulneſs of virgins, the reſerve of matrons, the ſolemnity of judges, the reverence of

of prieſts, the importance of phyſicians, the aukward pedantry of tutors, the ferocity of ſoldiers, the graciouſneſs of fine gentlemen, the elevation of nobility, the ſtatelineſs of gentry—all, all prominencies of character, ſink down, and are loſt, in the pleaſing torrent of mirth which flows from heart to heart, and penetrates into the inmoſt creeks of the ſoul. The Perſians are now ſtrangers, happy ſtrangers! to the cares, and diſtreſſes, and calamities of life, under which they ſo lately laboured—ſo abſorbed in the joys of the preſent moment, that they recollect nothing of the paſt, and never look down the ſtream of time for the future. Every boſom ſwells with gladneſs—every eye gliſtens with pleaſure—every mouth is lengthened with ſmiles—every tongue warbles the praiſes of the Sophi and his hawk—and every where you ſee the young and the old, the merry and the ſedate, the fooliſh and the wiſe, animating the ſprightly dance, to the ſound of * jigs and reels,

* The original words are, "Paradah ſymop Kirri-"dah, Mappikok ſymop Trampilok," and ſignify the four ſorts of quick muſic in the Eaſt.

hornpipes and ſtrathſpeys. The citizens of Iſpahan are all ſo light, ſo briſk, ſo airy, that a ſingle face of tolerable ſerioufneſs could not be purchaſed among them for ready gold.—A ſtranger would ſwear theſe good people had ſold themſelves to folly and madneſs. They trip along the ſtreets on their tiptoes with infinite vivacity—and then they ſnap it with their fingers ſo chearily to their own private hummings and whiſtlings! Nor is the country a jot behind the town in the extravagance of joy on this ſeaſon of feſtivity—the nymphs and ſwains gambolling and frolicking on the green to the ſhrill wild notes of the bag-pipe, or to the ſweet and melodious tinklings of the harp. Now many a courtſhip is begun——and many a courtſhip is compleated——and, alas! many a ſimple milkmaid is qualified in the ſilent grove to complain of flattering, faithleſs, and inconſtant man—and many a lover laughs at the levity of his miſtreſs, and finds happineſs in another charmer.

Theſe rejoicings continue nine days; and on the tenth the Sophi, in his royal robes, and attended by all his court, rides on an Arabian courſer, with furniture of green velvet curiouſly embroidered

embroidered with hawks, to the beautiful plain of Maluvaneira; where he is received amidſt the loud acclamations of thouſands of his ſubjects, aſſembled from all the provinces of the empire, to ſee the ceremony of ſwearing fidelity to the royal hawk ſolemnized. The prince alights from his horſe, and paſſes through the ranks of his guards, to a glorious throne of the fineſt workmanſhip, on which he deliberately places his royal body. As ſoon as he is ſeated, he is encloſed by his nobles; and, verily, it is a comely ſight to behold a golden hawk and carbuncles, with ſpread wings, nodding on the tip of every noſe; but that on the imperial noſe is compoſed of a variety of precious ſtones, artfully cemented together, which repreſent the natural colours of the feathers. Now the Great Faulconer advances, tall, erect, and firm, and, placing the hawk on the top of the ſceptre, pronounces a learned harangue on the excellence of faulconry in general; but expatiates in particular on the high qualities of the bird which he had the honour to preſent to his ſovereign lord. He ends his oration with a ſolemn and confidential wiſh, that the dominion of the hawk may be as extenſive

extenſive and abſolute over the foreſts of deer as that of the ſceptre whereon it ſits is over the Perſian realms! Then the Sophi, holding out the hawk, orders him to lay the forefinger of the right hand under its pounces, and ſwear the following oath: "I Paſhur Mirzah Kobby Mottaleb Fulman, Great Faulconer of Perſia, do ſwear by the beard of the Sophi, by the pounces of the hawk, and by Tebadar Sazed her guardian angel, that I ſhall be her true and faithful ſlave, providing her, to the beſt of my knowledge and believe, in the moſt wholeſome food, and moſt entertaining ſport. But, if I ſhall at any time ſo far neglect my charge, as that ſhe may in the leaſt ſuffer by my careleſſneſs, may I become the victim of her vengeance in this world, and drop at the laſt day from the narrow bridge into the blue flaming billows, which boil for the torture of all ſlothful and heedleſs faulconers." This oath is afterwards adminiſtred to all the under-faulconers and other officers of the royal mews, ſuch alterations being made in the form as their reſpective poſts render neceſſary and proper. Then he who is appointed body-phyſician to the hawk, cometh forward, with a right grave, ſolemn

lemn ſtep; and, having undergone an examination on all the diſeaſes and cures of hawks, he is alſo ſworn into his place.

Whilſt this ceremony laſts, not a cough or whiſper is heard to diſturb the ſtill attention which is ſo ſuitable to its awfulneſs and dignity. The eager curioſity of the whole multitude is centered in it, every mortal ſtretching out his neck, and darting piercing looks to the important ſcene. You might in this calm hear the ſofteſt down of a feather fall to the earth. The ceremony being finiſhed, the onlookers are diſmiſſed by the ſound of trumpets, who, as they go away, wiſh, in pealing exclamations, the Sophi many ſuch hawks, and an endleſs reign to enjoy them.

This potentate flies theſe noble birds in vaſt foreſts well ſtocked with deer, which they attack with incredible impetuoſity. As ſoon as they deſcry their prey from the heights of air, they ſtoop on it with the rapidity of lightning, and, taking their ſtation between its horns, aim directly at its eyes. The creature, finding itſelf thus aſſailed, runs, and bounds, and toſſes its head, in order to ſhake off its enemy; but the well trained

trained hawk keeps her hold amidſt all theſe agitations, as little moleſted by them as if ſhe were a part of the animal itſelf. At laſt, ſhe not only tears out the eyes, but penetrates even to the brains; and it is the amuſement of the ſpectators to mark the varying turns of the ſtruggle between the deer and the hawk, till the former is killed.

Nothing can exceed the care and aſſiduity wherewith the faulconers and phyſicians look after the royal hawks; for the penalty of their oath, whatever may be their fate in the next world, is inflicted with the utmoſt ſeverity, as far as it regards the preſent. If it appear that the loſs or death of any of theſe birds is occaſioned by their negligence, the offender is ſowed up in deers ſkins, with horns fixed to his head, and thus turned out to the rage of the hawks. Theſe, miſtaking the diſguiſed criminal for a deer, fly at him with their uſual fierceneſs, pull out his eyes, and put him to the moſt excruciating death. The dread of this horrible fate renders the officers of the royal mews remarkably attentive and ſkilful in their duty, and guards the hawks from periſhing by any ailment except old age.

The

The attachment of the Sophi for faulconry is equalled by that of his Ottoman Highneſs, who does great honour to the princely ſport. This monarch maintains, at a very high expence, a train of * ſix thouſand faulconers. The lovers of calculation will thence be enabled to form an idea of the wealth of this prince, as well as of his affection for the ſports of the ſky. Each faulconer is able enough to take care of three hawks; and theſe require three ſpaniels to ſpring game, and ſix lads to beat the covers. Multiply theſe numbers then by the number of faulconers, and you will ſee, that the auguſt protector of Mahomet's religion has in his pay forty-two thouſand men in all——in his mews eighteen thouſand hawks——and in his kennels the ſame number of ſpaniels. The ſubſiſtence of one faulconer, ſix lads, three hawks, and as many ſpaniels, is cheap at nine ſhillings a day. The product of this moderate ſum multiplied by the number of faulconers, amounts only to two thouſand ſeven hundred pounds ſterling a day. Multiply this daily ex-

* The curious reader will find this fact alſo in Chambers's Dictionary.

expence by the days of a year, and you will plainly diſcover, that the commander of the faithful annually lays out nine hundred and eighty-five thouſand and five hundred pounds. This is, without doubt, a conſiderable deal of money; but I could have made the ſum much higher, had I thrown into it the ſplendid appointments of the officers of the train. As exaggeration, however, has always been my utter averſion, I have forborn to ſwell the accompt with this additional expence; and from the ſame principle, I ſhall not be angry at any gentleman who may think fit to cut away from the total the odd eighty-five thouſand and five hundred pounds.

The great expence of the Grand Signior's train of faulconers would merit no credit, were we not certain, that he can command the wealth of many kingdoms to ſupply it. The bow-ſtring is to him a ſource of more wealth than the King of Spain draws from Mexico and Peru, and much more within his reach. Beſides his fair and eſtabliſhed revenues, he ſqueezes immenſe ſums from the baſhaws for their governments;—they, in their turn, ſqueeze the people, in order to reimburſe themſelves;—and he, afterwards, puts

puts an end to the lives of theſe inferior oppreſſors for the ſake of their treaſures. Thus, juſtice gives him poſſeſſion of a part of the wealth of his ſubjects for the ſupport of his government; and he employs tyranny and cruelty to get into his hands the greater part of the remainder. To thoſe, therefore, who conſider his wealth, it will not appear extraordinary, that he ſpends a few hundred thouſand pounds on the manly pleaſure of hawking.

On grand hawking-days, this prince cannot have in his retinue fewer than ſeventy or eighty thouſand ſouls, if we add to the faulconers and their aſſiſtants, the guards, and baſhaws, and ſpectators who will attend him. But he ſeldom goes to the field in all this glory and magnificence; nor is it indeed ſolely or chiefly for his own private amuſement that he maintains ſuch a numerous train of ſportſmen. He keeps them principally with a view to the proſperity of his empire, which they advance very eſſentially in a way which will amaze thoſe who are not acquainted with it already.

Every body has heard, with admiration, of the fierce impetuoſity wherewith the Janizaries

charge their enemies in battle. But it is a piece of information to, perhaps, moſt people, that theſe troops owe their egregious bravery to the virtue of five faulcon eggs which each man takes twice a week to breakfaſt in time of war. Hawks are, of all the feathered tribes, the moſt undaunted and enterpriſing; and theſe heroic qualities they communicate to thoſe who eat their eggs. It is ſuperfluous to prove, to ſuch as know the wonderful effects of beef on the Britiſh ſoldiery, that the fearleſſneſs of the mind is ſometimes created, and always promoted, by the excellence of the food which is taken into the body. Fill the moſt timid coward who ever ſhrunk from the face of danger——fill him with roaſt-beef and ſtrong-beer, and he will run up to a battery of cannon in the hotteſt fire.

The Turks have two ſorts of faulcon-eggs for inſpiriting their Janizaries. The one ſort is produced by faulcons which are fed on ordinary food, and the other by faulcons which are fed on extraordinary food. The firſt ſort is allotted to men who poſſeſs that ſhare of courage with which nature endues the generality of mankind; but the laſt

laſt is aſſigned to your conſtitutional cowards—As for native heroes, they eat neither ſort.

It may be aſked, from a very reaſonable curioſity, By what method do the Turks diſcover the different tempers of their ſoldiers, ſo as to adapt the eggs to each man's ſtate of mind? This queſtion merits an anſwer, and I ſhall give it before I proceed any further. You muſt know, that in each regiment of Janizaries, there are eſtabliſhed ſix aged philoſophers, deeply experienced in all the modifications of the human heart, into whoſe hands are put all the young officers and recruits. Theſe philoſophers, to the moſt piercing ſagacity, join the moſt winning candour of heart, and ſweetneſs of manners, and thereby ſoon inſinuate themſelves into the love and confidence of thoſe who are placed under their inſpection. As they are perſons of the moſt ſcrupulous and benevolent diſcretion, and left to perform the duties of their office in the way which their own wiſdom determines to be beſt, without fear of cenſure——the youth committed to their ſecurity are under no apprehenſions of having the weak parts of their characters expoſed to the world. Beſides, were they once found guilty of ſuch

ſuch ridiculous folly, and unneceſſary cruelty, they would be turned with ignominy out of their places;—for the Turks are ſuch odd mortals, as to reckon back-biting a certain mark of cowardice; and they hate cowardice worſe than the devil. The great aim of theſe ſages is, to diſcover the natural and prevailing bent of the young men; and, that they may the more eaſily find it out, they allow them to act in whatever way they pleaſe, in all places, and on all emergencies, knowing that reſtraint and auſterity more frequently teach them to diſguiſe than to correct their paſſions. By this ſimple method, they ſoon arrive at the knowledge of the different diſpoſitions of the juvenile candidates for military fame, and give them ſuch eggs as are ſuited to their diſpoſitions.

Thus, if a young officer or recruit takes pleaſure in learning the uſe of his arms, and keeps them bright and in fighting order——if he obeys his ſuperior with ſmiling alartneſs, and is beloved by all his comerades——if he never provokes a quarrel, nor ever tamely ſubmits to an avowed affront——this character ranks him among men of genuine ſpirit and courage. But if, on the

the contrary, he is found to delight in a pert challenging arrangement of features——to affect ſtately, overbearing, and neglectful manners——to be boaſting, vain-glorious, and valorous in converſation——to liſten to defamatory inſinuations, and to be learned in ſlanderous anecdotes ——to treat his inferiors with abuſive acrimony, and his ſuperiors with cringing flattery——to be covetous, niggardly, and curmudgeonly——in ſhort, to be very full of himſelf, and very diſdainful to all who would not chuſe to oppoſe him—— our philoſophers declare a man of this ſilly diſpoſition, a coward of the loweſt and moſt deſpicable order. Here I muſt obſerve, that they do not paſs judgment on the whole character from ſingle or occaſional indications of heroiſm or puſillanimity, but from the general train of it; there being moments when a hero ſinks into a coward, and when a coward feels himſelf a hero——to his utter aſtoniſhment.

I now proceed to explain the way by which the Turks obtain the neceſſary quantity of eggs, and how they prepare them. The immenſe number of faulconers and aſſiſtants, whom I have already mentioned, are cantoned out among the mountains.

mountains, and rocky provinces of the empire, to gather faulcon eggs during the ſummer, and to put the eyries into proper order the reſt of the year. That long flights for food may not fatigue and diſable the hawks for laying, great droves of dogs are ſent from every quarter of the empire to the deſarts, where they are killed, and diſtributed in pieces at midnight to all the eyries. By this œconomy, the faulcons hardly ever ſtir out, except when their health calls for exerciſe; and ſo being vigorous, they lay, each of them, an egg a day. They are, at the beginning of the ſeaſon, permitted to lay four or five eggs without being robbed; but, every day after, the faulconers rob each eyry of a ſingle egg. The birds, prompted by nature, continue laying, in order to compleat the number at which they hatch, and theſe people continue their robberies, in order to delay the completion of that number. But, when they perceive the birds growing weak, and the ſeaſon far gone, they allow them to lay the full number to which inſtinct directs them for the preſervation of their breed. In that warm climate, faulcons ſeldom lay fewer than ſeven or eight eggs; whereas, in the colder regions

gions of the north, they never produce more than two, or three, or four. As ſoon as faulconers take the eggs from the neſts, they dip them in melted wax, of which they receive a coat that excludes the air, and ſaves them from putrefaction. Theſe are the ſort of eggs which are appointed for men of ordinary ſpirit, with a view to exalt them into heroes.

But there is another ſort, as I have already mentioned, which is prepared for the ſole uſe of natural cowards in the following manner: The tick is a ſmall animal, of a dark colour, flat body, and ſharp ſnout, which it ſinks into the ſkin of men or dogs. There it remains immoveable, ſucking nutritious juices, cauſing a painful itching, till it ſwells to the ſize of a cheſnut, and then falls off, changed into a dirty whitiſh hue. Theſe inſects are found in great numbers on the graſs and low ſhrubs; and the faulconers collect them by lying naked on the ground, from which they creep in multitudes on their bodies. They bruſh them immediately off, before they fix themſelves, into a large veſſel of white china-ware, and thence gather them into a cup filled with the lees of wine. Here their appear-

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ance rises imperceptibly to a bright flaming red; their motions grow amazingly irregular and violent; and at length they emit a very delicate sound, which, by laying your ear close to the cup, you may hear distinctly, sometimes like tender, sometimes like gleesome, and sometimes like martial music. This sound informs the faulconers that the insects have reached the last stage of madness; at which they take them out of the cup, and fix them, one on each dog, placing them on the veins under the tongue, which, on account of their softness, are easily penetrated, and readily admit the poison. The dogs, when they feel the bite, jump, and frisk, and gambol up and down their inclosures, all life and joy; but, on the third day, when they always look heavy and stupid, the faulconers give each of them three drops of the gall of a fiery serpent, and a speck of the wax which excretes from the ear of a female harpy, both dissolved in fair water. The bite of the tick naturally brings on madness; but this composition throws the body into an universal trembling, deprives the limbs of life and motion, and causes the teeth to fall out. The venom of the insect is produced by inebriation,

inebriation, and it acts so nicely in concert with the mixed gall and wax——that the madness into which it throws the dogs is immediately succeeded by death. It is by this method that no harm ever arises to any creature from the fury of the dogs, which would otherwise bite the whole country into a frenzy. These dogs are instantly cut in pieces, and distributed, as were the former, among the eyries, for the production of the most sublimating eggs.

When you consider the food of the birds which lay these wonderful eggs, you will not doubt of their power to light up in the breast of even cowardice itself the intrepidity of a hero. This must be the effect, when the honest fidelity of the dog, and the bloody perseverance of the tick, both stimulated to the keenest madness by the spirit of the grape, are joined to the hot ferocity of the faulcon, and all concentrated into one luminous flame of magnanimity within her egg. And, indeed, experience makes it evident, that, from an egg of this sort, there passes into the blood of those who eat it, such a glorious assemblage of heroic qualities, as enables them to look smiling on the most dreadful perils. It

ſwells their imaginations with the loftieſt ideas of magnanimity and public ſpirit, and empties them of all ſelfiſh regards for their own private concerns and preſervation. They pant for the battle when their country is in danger, and exult at the the ſight of that danger——becauſe bravely to encounter it covers them with glory, whether they fall in the conflict or ſurvive it. Their ſouls expand, heroic, as the various turns of the engagement glide before their enraptured fancy, and give them the nobleſt opportunity of ſignalizing their generous ardour, and ſteady reſolution. They ſoar on wings of conſcious dignity, when they look forward to the ſplendour with which their exploits ſhall blaze in the eyes of admiring poſterity, and anticipate the applauſes with which their names ſhall be honoured by future poets and hiſtorians. Their ſole dread is, the diſhonour of yielding to a foe who menaces their ſovereign, their country, their religion, with perdition; and, when the weapons of death terminate their glorious career in the combat, they breathe out their undaunted ſouls with exſtatic joy——able to die for ſuch great and intereſting objects, but not to live by deſerting them.

It

It is well known, that duelling never took place among the Turks. They look on it as the conſummation of human folly, to repair honour, or to determine between right and wrong, by the blood of one or other of two perſons who chance to fall into an unpremeditated quarrel. They cannot conceive how a man becomes a liar, or a villain, or a ſcoundrel, by receiving theſe titles from a fellow who has effrontery enough to beſtow them; nor how he is transformed into a coward, by ſhewing himſelf too magnanimous to ſet himſelf on a level with a wrong-headed fool. They are equally at a loſs to point out, whence ariſes the propenſity of the world to arrange themſelves on his ſide who is ſo barbarous and ſtupid as to think it bravery to expoſe either another or himſelf to the chance of being murdered, for the ſake of a difference which, in even their own opinion, might be more rationally adjuſted. They feel themſelves gropping in the dark, when they endeavour to comprehend, why two men are trained and ſupported by their country, for its defence againſt the violence and inroads of its enemies, ſhall be reckoned men of honour in fighting againſt each other, when it is evident, that the public

public is defrauded by the death of either, to the amount of their former ſubſiſtence. They have heard of the poſitive laws againſt ſingle combat, and are amazed that the concurrence of madmen in favour of that abſurd cuſtom ſhould render them ineffectual; but, at the ſame time, they compaſſionate every man of genuine ſenſe and bravery, whom the inſolence of a conſiderable fool lays under the hard neceſſity of either drawing his ſword againſt a bundle of pride, indiſcretion, and ill temper, or of forfeiting his character in the public opinion. By what turn of mind the Turks are ſo much puzzled in conſidering the ſubject of duelling, whether by their ſenſe or ſtupidity, is a point too ſublime for me to determine; but of this I pretend to be certain, that they condemn the practice unanimouſly, and declare, that a man is obliged to preſerve his life for the benefit of his country, and religion, and ſovereign, and for their ſake only to lay it down. This way of thinking, which they indulge againſt duelling, is the conſequence of the uſe which the troops make of faulcon eggs; whereby they are all rendered ſo brave, that they need not fight their own country-men to eſtabliſh this character,

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and ſo haughty, that they think a fellow below their notice, whoſe inſolence cannot be otherwiſe repreſſed.

But, though the eggs under conſideration are in general of the higheſt advantage to the Turkiſh empire, inſtances may be produced, wherein they appear to have been perverted to the worſt purpoſes. Thoſe who are ſkilled in the hiſtory of Ottoman princes will recollect ſeveral inſtances of this nature, and, among the reſt, that of the murder of Ebn Abdolmoldallah Ebn Schiraz, one of the beſt Mufti's who ever taught muſſulmen the way to heaven. A ſcarcity of faulcon eggs having happened in the reign of the emperor who advanced this worthy Mufti to his dignity, the Janizaries laid this calamity to his Majeſty's charge, and on that account deprived him of his crown and life. This horrible treaſon pointed out the danger of feeding theſe troops any longer with faulcon eggs; and accordingly, a plan was concerted in the next reign to take this food from them altogether. The only legal obſtacle to the execution of the plan, was a paſſage of the Koran, wherein the right of the Janizaries to faulcon eggs was plainly founded, and that the Mufti

Mufti was obliged to explain away. The imperial command was ſignified to him with all ſolemnity; and he well knew, he muſt either obey it, or ſubmit to the bow-ſtring. He choſe obedience as the ſafeſt meaſure, and forced his conſcience and orthodoxy to bend to the authority of his ſovereign. Accordingly, he prepared a laboured diſcourſe on this ſubject; and, on an appointed day, the Emperor, attended by his court, and all the Janizaries, came to hear him deliver it. He declaimed with much warmth and eloquence againſt the uſe of the eggs in queſtion, from the fury into which they inflamed the eaters;—he ſhewed, by the concurrent judgement of the moſt ſolid and grave commentators, that theſe eggs were originally intended only to Mohamed's own ſoldiers;—and he made it appear, that the money which theſe eggs coſt might be laid out much better in building and endowing moſques and hoſpitals. His diſcourſe being finiſhed, he declared with an audible voice, faulcon eggs to be incentives to high treaſon, and every Janizary to be an enemy to his prince and country who ſhould hereafter taſte them. Then he promiſed all the various joys of paradiſe to thoſe who lived up to the ſpirit of this

decla-

declaration; but threatened the wretches with the bittereſt of hell's torments who tranſgreſſed it. When it was ended, the Emperor and all his courtiers roſe up, with a holy and examplary air of devotion, and ſaid, Amen! after the venerable Mufti, who was greatly edified by this attention to religion in ſuch great men.

But the declaration was by no means as acceptable to the Janizaries as it was to their monarch and his attendants. They were exaſperated, that a reſolution was taken to rob them of their favourite breakfaſt; but their patience could hold no longer, when they reflected, that an old prieſt, who had no right to meddle in their affairs, pronounced the injurious ſentence. Fury boiling in their hearts, quaked in every joint, reddened in their eyes, gnaſhed in their teeth, and made them tear their muſtachoes with violent hands. The Sultan and his retinue, who well underſtood the meaning of theſe ſigns, retired in an order wherein more attention was paid to ſpeed than is conſiſtent with the ſolemn dignity of an imperial proceſſion. The impious Janizaries, now freed from every ſhadow of reſtraint, flew on the holy man, and, after treating him with the cruel-

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eſt inſolence, were juſt going to impale him alive —when he begged a moment's audience. After ſome altercation with one another, they agreed to his requeſt, aſſigning this piece of inhuman railery as the reaſon of their compliance—that they had never heard the dying words of a Mufti, and did not know but they might be more diverting than any he ever ſpoke in his life. Silence being ordered, the venerable ſaint addreſſed them in the following ſpeech: "You are going to ſhed my blood, O ye Janizaries, becauſe I diſſuaded you from faulcon eggs for the good of your country. But I predict, that, the inſtant I am arrived in paradiſe, a curſe from our great Prophet will begin to operate on your bands, and produce its full effect after many revolving years. Hawks will henceforth decreaſe in the empire—and at length totally abandon it, flying towards that point of the heavens where the ſun is never ſeen, and invigorating with their eggs a nation, which is one day to ſhake our empire to the very centre. Then ſhall ye, O ye Janizaries, in your ſucceſſors, turn your timid backs to the ſword of your enemies, as doth a pigeon to the terrors of the ravenous eagle." They could contain

tain their fury no longer, and immediately inflicted on him every barbarity their relentleſs hearts could think of. His murder, however, and that of his maſter, has rendered every ſucceeding Mufti very orthodox on the egg-text, and every ſucceeding emperor very attentive to the egg-magazines.

The hidden ſpring of theſe violent diſturbances was ſuppoſed, not without good reaſon, to be Sepher Ebn Shamgar Ebn Mourli—a prieſt of the moſt inſatiable ambition, which he concealed and promoted under the moſt ſanctimonious veneration for orthodoxy. This man's countenance was, in public, beclouded with auſterity and moroſeneſs; his words flowed in cenſorious advices, or bitter invectives; and his heart was wrapt in cunning, trick, and hypocriſy. He flattered the former emperor, who ſaw into his worthleſſneſs and intereſted views, in hopes of obtaining the Muftiſhip; but he flattered him in vain, and, on that account, ſecretly employed the famine of faulcon eggs, which fell out ſoon after, to inflame the Janizaries to a rebellion, which was but too ſucceſsful. His rival was now the object of his lurking rancour and fury; and he

watched for an opportunity to ſacrifice him to his diſappointed and exaſperated ambition. The fame of his extraordinary piety and devotion had been publiſhed in the ſeraglio by the holy tongues of milliners and ſeamſtreſſes, who managed the neceſſary buſineſs of the ſultaneſſes in the city; and his very advanced age procured him acceſs to that ſerene abode of beauty, in order to give lectures of conjugal fidelity, and ghoſtly comfort to the charming captives. He ſoon opened a path to himſelf, by means of their ſuperſtition, into their very ſouls, from which he drew the quickeſt and moſt certain intelligence of every thing that was decreed in the divan; and, among other reſolutions, that of depriving the Janizaries of their faulcon eggs, by a declaration of the Mufti. This ſecret deluged his heart with joy. He immediately began to practiſe on theſe troops, and ſoon prepared them for perpetrating that ſacrilegious murder, which paved the way for his own advancement to the higheſt eccleſiaſtical dignity of the empire. With this he was ſolemnly inveſted, the ſame day his rival went to paradiſe, at the ſeditious and menacing requeſt of the Janizaries, to whoſe outrageous importunity the Em-

Emperor durſt not give a refuſal.——This ſhort detail ſeemed neceſſary to explain the former tranſactions, and therefore have I given it.

Which of theſe two prieſts was the beſt man, is evident, not only from their hiſtory, but ſtill more ſtrikingly from the war which flamed ſo lately between the Ruſſians and the Turks, and is not yet extinguiſhed. It is no ſecret, that faulcons are now much ſcarcer in Turkey, and much plentier in Ruſſia, than they were formerly; nor, that the northern armies have the eggs of theſe birds in great abundance, while the muſſelmen are in the greateſt want of them. A gentleman of unqueſtioned veracity and great erudition, who has free admiſſion to papers concealed from the reſt of the world, has informed me, in the moſt authentic manner, that a flight of hawks from five hundred eyries in the wilderneſs of Baharim was ſeen a few years ago to paſs northward, to the great ſorrow of true Mohamedans. They lighted among the rocks of Ruſſia, where they have continued ever ſince, infuſing into the diſciples of St Nicholas, that bravery from their eggs, which has enabled them to make the Grand Sultan tremble on his throne in the middle

dle of his guards, and threatens to expel him one day from Europe altogether. It is from the ſame worthy gentleman I have alſo information, that the chief obſtacle to the peace which theſe two powerful nations were negotiating, was a demand made by the Ruſſians from the Turks of many thouſand faulcons as a yearly tribute, which the latter abſolutely refuſed, either from policy or inability.

The inference from all theſe particulars is, that the Mufti's prophecy is now accompliſhed—— which implies the villany of his ſucceſſor, who contrived his ruin. The Ruſſians have beat the Turks on all hands——driven them from their own territories——drowned them in their own ſeas——and threatened to point their cannon againſt the walls of Conſtantinople itſelf. Victory ſeems to hover above the hoſts of theſe warriors, and leads them on againſt their enemies to aſſured glory and conqueſt.

The advantages accruing to the Ruſſians from the uſe of faulcon eggs, ought to alarm the other powers of Europe for their independency, and make them enter into the moſt vigorous meaſures to ſet bounds to their ambition. When France

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firſt eſtabliſhed ſtanding armies, ſhe had it in her power to overawe and annoy all her neighbours; but as they, ſenſible of their danger, brought in ſtanding armies too for their ſecurity——ſo ought the breeding of hawks to become the capital concern of every nation at preſent, in order to raiſe them to their former importance with regard to Ruſſia.

After all I have ſaid with regard to faulconry in former times, and in other countries, I cannot forbear thinking, that this ſcience appears more rational in my own time and nation, and productive of more amuſement, than in any other period and people, which either proſe or verſe has brought to my knowledge. But, while I applaud and prefer the way of hawking to which I have been bred, I do not mean to diſparage the Trebezondian, Perſian, or Turkiſh methods. Theſe, as they are all productive of pleaſure to thoſe who peruſe them, are, on that account, to be eſteemed among the alleviations of human miſery. In my own opinion, the man who condemns every thing as wrong that does not fall in with his particular notions, gives the cleareſt proof of a narrow mind; and he gives an equally clear proof of an haughty,

arrogant,

arrogant, preſumptuous diſpoſition, if he expects that all men are to conform their various taſtes to the ſtandard of his. He might, with as much reaſon, demand, that they ſhould curtail or lengthen their perſons to his ſtature; or darken or brighten their faces to his complection; or ſtrengthen or weaken their appetite to his ſtomach, and be hungry or full, thirſty or refreſhed, juſt when and how he pleaſed.

Amuſements are nothing in themſelves in any part of the world; but derive all their value from the delight they beſtow on thoſe who are engaged in them. Such, however, ſeem preferable to the reſt, that throw the body into the moſt natural and graceful motions, and render the mind leaſt ſenſible of the tedious lapſe of time; thus promoting the vigour of the former, and affording the moſt agreeable relaxation to the latter, to qualify both for the neceſſary and important offices of life.

This praiſe is due to faulconry, in whatever way it is practiſed in the different parts of the world. The ſprightly faulconer, animated by the love of ſport, burſting the ſilken bands of ſleep, riſes early as the lark, and as full of glee; and haſtens to

to the foreſt in queſt of health and manly diverſion. His ſpaniels, ſnuffing the ſcent of game in the breeze, traverſe every thicket with eager impatience; and, mingling their call with the encouraging voice of their maſter, rouſe the echo into joyous clamour from every hill and valley. Chearful hope plays light in his heart, while his eyes encompaſs with watchful looks the ſcene of ſport; and his hawk teſtifies, by her half-ſpread trembling wings, her keenneſs for the aerial chace.—Mark!—the dogs have ſprung a woodcock—the eager faulconer unhoods the bold-eyed bird, and with a chearing whiſtle ſlips her at her prey. The cock, impelled by the dreaded preſence of his enemy to his utmoſt ſpeed—ſee!——he mounts——he mounts—he mounts to the heights of air, direct as the feathered ſhaft from the twanging bow. The hawk purſues him—rap, rap, rap—on ſounding pinions; and now breathes with open beak on his train, ready to riſe above him. The cock—ſee!—acquires new ſtrength and rapidity from the urgency of the danger behind him, and darts more impetuous towards the ſky by the force of terror. The hawk, enraged by his

his eſcape, redoubles her ſpeed, and feels herſelf invigorated for the purſuit by the warmth which her reſentment has kindled in her breaſt. Now, now, they are no bigger than wrens!—now they are dwindled to beetles!—now, they vaniſh, and appear to the doubtful ſight like the twinkling of the ſmaller ſtars!—now the faulconer and his company, proſtrated on the ground, with reverted looks, in vain ſearch for them in the expanſe of air!—Thouſands of eluſive bubbles formed in the atmoſphere by the weakened ſight, ſuch as mantle on the pool that receives the thundering cataract, intercept their view with dazzling confuſion. The cock, no longer able to urge his upward flight, ſtretches away in a gentle declining direction, while the hawk takes the opportunity, which fatigue compels him to give her, of mounting above him, and—there, there!—they appear again to the longing ſight of the gazing ſpectators. How rapidly the hawk ſtoops—how nimbly the cock buckles!—See the hawk! how quickly ſhe regains the ſky!—there ſhe ſtoops like a thunderbolt!——but the cock has once more eluded the blow of death!—— He makes for the cover, and, ah! will certainly

ly eſcape—No! no!—down ſhe comes, ſouſe, on him again-----His good fortune has deſerted him ------he drops dead near the thicket, which the inſtant before he viewed as his refuge from his foe.

The faulconer and his company, pleaſed with their diverſion, take their way home; and the landſcape varying to their ſight as they walk along, preſents them with the ſucceſſive ſcenes of rular beauties to compoſe their thoughts, agitated by the lively pleaſure of ſuch a noble and glorious flight. Here plains, through which a river cuts its way, afford paſture to numerous herds of cattle, and wind away from their following eyes among the diſtant hills. Yonder the riſing ſmoke draws their attention to a village hid in trees, and their thoughts to the calm felicity of humble life. On one ſide, the hollow murmuring of a diſtant water-fall, and, on the other, the hoarſe noiſe of the foreſt on the mountain's ſide, gently ſhaken by the wind, mingle in the air, and breathe ſerenity into their ſouls. Bleak hills riſe before them, which they wiſh covered with trees; and a mouldering ruin deſcried from afar, puts them in mind of the ancient family

which once rejoiced there, and, alas! is now to be found only in tradition, or in the pride of thoſe who claim their deſcent from it. From theſe ſubjects their converſation paſſes to ſporting ——when they commemorate, with great delight, the amazing ſagacity of ſpaniels, and the aſtoniſhing courage of hawks, which are now in the duſt; nor do they forget the diverting jokes and wonderful exploits of former faulconers who ſported with their fathers, and carried themſelves yet infants in their arms. The ambition of each man to raiſe his tale above thoſe of his neighbours, throws a ſtrong daſh of the marvellous into their narrations—which the credulous drink in without thought or examination, but which perſons of penetration oppoſe with ridicule or argument, or with poſitive contradiction and extravagant bets. The debate beginning to grow warm, and to ſet every man's tongue a going, is happily terminated and forgotten, by the near proſpect of the houſe where they are to dine, and recruit their waſted ſtrength and ſpirits. They are arrived——every man repairs to his room to dreſs—and then into what a glorious uproar the whole houſe is caſt! Orders, contradictory as at the

the Tower of Bable, burſt from every apartment—ſervants, muttering curſes againſt their impatient maſters, fly up and down ſtairs with ſhoes, and ſtockings, and baſons of water——and the doors, ſo merrily cracking and clapping, would make a ſtranger imagine the houſe was occupied by ſtocking-weavers and joiners, or ſome other equally noiſy tradeſmen. The bell gives the joyful ſignal for dinner——The company obey the welcome ſummons, and meet together with health and good humour ſmiling in their looks, and ſtomachs ſharp enough to turn bread and water into a feaſt. The hoſpitality of the landlord and landlady who preſide over the entertainment, kindly exhorts their gueſts to make hearty chear, and to forget their fatigues and wearineſs in convivial enjoyment. Now, a field is opened for diſplaying the ſoft and gentle contention of compliments, in which the victor is recompenſed with the inward pleaſing ſenſe of his own ſuperior elegance and politeneſs, and the vanquiſhed is conſoled by the ſecret vanity of thinking himſelf the object of ſo many favourable turns of eloquence. Then, what ſocial hobbing and nobbing!—what friendly preſſing to make good chear!—what com-

complaints of bad weather and bad roads!——what wiſe obſervations on the quality and prices of proviſions!——what curious anecdotes on courtſhip and marriages! Amidſt this eaſy chit-chat, hunger is inſenſibly appeaſed; and now the table is adorned with bottles and glaſſes, the prompters of a more gay and jovial converſation. Sociality ſmiles on every countenance——good humour wantons in every eye——friendſhip warms every breaſt, and excites an emulation to pleaſe and to be pleaſed. The comic tale, the polite jeſt, the eaſy rapture, take their turns, and make the room reſound, and every ſide in the company ſhake with laughter. This joyouſneſs yields to the grave conſideration of politics——the pretentions of all parties are nicely examined and debated, and every man wonders to find himſelf endowed with wiſdom to govern a nation. Then their eloquence expatiates on horſes, and dogs, and roads, and races, and wines, and farms, and banks, and hunting, and planting, and coals, and lime, and dung, and a thouſand other ſubjects which follow one another, and are diſcuſſed in the quickeſt ſucceſſion. Thus live faulconers—the moſt kind, generous, and frank

of

of men, devoid of all guile, trick, and cunning —and drawing as much happineſs as they can out of life.

I ſhall finiſh this introduction, with juſt obſerving, that, as there is no relaxation more manly than hawking, ſo there is none more innocent, or more capable of enlarging the mind. The faulconer is always converſant with the nobleſt objects of nature, the ſkies, mountains, foreſts, and rivers, which cannot fail of beſtowing dignity and grandeur on his conceptions. From theſe, his ſoul receives an elevation of thought, which makes him deſpiſe every thing baſe and diſhonourable; and thus he is prepared to become the ornament and benefactor of ſociety.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

THE reader will perceive a difference of ſtile between the following treatiſe and the preceeding introduction: The former being written for practical faulconers, required plain language; but the latter, being intended to amuſe, demanded a more flowery diction both in the reaſonings and tranſlations. This is my firſt attempt at an introduction, which is not yet ſo clever as I hope to make it in the ſecond edition. The *capacity* I received from nature for introductions, I have indeed carried into *habit*——that has grown under my hands into a *faculty*——but I muſt frankly own, that I find the utmoſt difficulty in advancing to the laſt ſtage, a compleat *energy*.

To

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARCHIBALD

EARL of EGLINTOUNE.

MY LORD,

YOUR love of Faulconry has made your Lordſhip often regret its decay, and wiſh for a plain treatiſe on that ſubject, which might render its practice eaſy, and induce our nobility and gentry once more to make it their favourite amuſement.

Your Lordſhip's kind partiality, I fear, and not my merit, influenced you to flatter me into an opinion, that I was not altogether unqualified for this office. ——How I have ſucceeded, no one can judge better than your Lordſhip.

There is a kind of an introduction perfixed to it, which, as it has nothing to do with the real practice, and was no part of your Lordſhip's deſire, I preſume not to aſk your patronage of; but, if it will any way add, at any time, to your Lordſhip's amuſement—— I care nothing, My Lord, whether you laugh at me or with me;——but beg your Lordſhip will not diſpute my ancient authorities.

Do me the honour, My Lord, to accept of the treatiſe itſelf as a mark of my obedience to your Lordſhip's commands, and of the great reſpect and eſteem with which I beg leave to ſubſcribe myſelf,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt humble, and

Moſt obedient ſervant,

JA. CAMPBELL.

A

TREATISE

OF

MODERN FAULCONRY.

CHAP. I.

Of the Faulconer.

PREVIOUS to the inſtructions I am to deliver concerning hawks, I ſhall briefly point out the qualities neceſſary in the perſon who is to manage them. He ought then to be of great ſtrength to bear the fatigue of aſcending hills, wading over rivers, preſſing thro'

thickets, and of ſurmounting the other difficulties that may lie in his way. Agility is alſo requiſite, that he may be able to attend his hawks in their flight, and ſerve them with game, while they are hanging over his head in the air in keen expectation of it. As they will often outfly his utmoſt ſpeed, his voice ſhould be full, clear, and loud, in order to be heard at a diſtance, and to bring them back to the deſtined ſcene of diverſion. They demand great regularity in their food and exerciſes, and, that he may be ſeldom tempted to neglect it, he muſt be methodical and temperate in his way of living. His love of the ſport muſt be very intenſe, to animate him to undergo, undaunted, the numberleſs inconveniences of attendance, weather, and ſoil, wherewith it is generally accompanied. This will make it his main pleaſure to be always with his hawks, training them to obedience, correcting their faults, and conſulting their health and beauty. To do theſe things effectually, he muſt underſtand their temper and conſtitution, and ought to poſſeſs much patience and mildneſs in the application of his knowledge. Hawks, under the management of a man thus qualified, will be always in good order

der for flying, exhibit the greateſt boldneſs and addreſs in chacing their prey, give the higheſt pleaſure to the beholders of their motions, and do juſt honour to the ſkill and attention of their keeper.

Strength, agility, keenneſs, and diligence, which are indiſpenſably neceſſary to the menial faulconer, ought alſo to be found in the gentleman whom he ſerves. They enable him to bear his part in the ſport with becoming manlineſs, to derive from it all the amuſement it can give, and to overawe his ſervant into the regular and honeſt diſcharge of his duty. When the maſter is ignorant of, or inattentive to his hawks, his faulconer muſt be uncommonly ſkilful and diligent, if they are always ready when he wants them. But if, on the contrary, he be idle, lazy, and careleſs, he will aſſign as little as he can of his time and thoughts to his buſineſs, depending for impunity on his maſter's negligence, or on the excuſes which he has prepared to impoſe on his ignorance. The hawks, fed with unſeaſonable or unwholeſome meals, loſe their ſpirit and vigour; and, deprived of their regular exerciſe, for-

forget their obedience; and, neglected in their natural and artificial phyſic, contract diſeaſes, which terminate in death. Thus, a gentleman who does not underſtand, or does not look after his hawks, may throw away much money on them, without ever receiving any recreation from them, by reaſon of his own thoughtleſſneſs, and the knavery of his ſervant. As this reaſon puts the ſport of hawking itſelf out of his power, at leaſt in its full perfection; ſo a tender, delicate, feeble conſtitution, and a timorous, apprehenſive, nice turn of mind, will render him utterly incapable of enjoying it, were it in his power, even in its higheſt excellence. If a perſon of this frame ſuffer a fit of keenneſs for the ſports of the ſky to hurry him through all their toils, he runs great danger of over-fatiguing himſelf, and thereby deſtroying his health; and if, on the other hand, his mind is occupied in the conſideration of all the bad conſequences which may ariſe from them, his fears exclude all enjoyment. While the ſinewy ſons of the field bound, light as the deer, over every obſtacle in the way of their diverſion, the cautious valetudinarian picks his ſteps, calculating the probabilities of his death, if he ſtrain his

his relaxed nerves to equal the jovial career of his fleet companions. The moment that the mountain's brow offers itſelf to his aſcent, the fancied toil makes his lungs work in heaving pantings; already he thinks his burſt blood-veſſels are pouring out their purple contents at his mouth, and the dread of death almoſt puts a period to his life. The murmuring brook, which oppoſes itſelf to his progreſs, ſwells in his imagination to a roaring torrent, and grows more chillingly cold than the ſharpeſt blaſt of the north; ſtraight his teeth chatter, his breaſt trembles throbbing, his fleſh creeps on his bones, his voice ſeems hoarſe, his blood is fevered; and, to ſave his life, he turns away from the hideous rill. When he arrives at the edge of a meadow flooded with the rains of winter, the ſight ſtrikes him with horror. The echoing ſhouts of the company, whom he beholds with aſtoniſhment at their temerity, daſhing fearleſsly through it, in vain encourage him to follow. He fancies a quagmire under the water; his deluded eyes repreſent it riſing and ſinking under their weight: Now he thinks himſelf up to the chin in the mud, juſt going

going to be ſwallowed: Now he labours for breath, oppreſſed by the terrors of imagined ſuffocation. In ſhort, a man of ſlenderneſs and timidity ought never to think of hawking but in very fine weather, and where he can take his ſtation on the ſummit of a dry hill, whence he may command a view of ſome miles around him, and ſee throughout that ſpace whatever flights are made by the faulcons.

CHAP. II.

Of the Implements of Faulconry.

HAVING given an idea of a ſkilful faulconer, the implements of his profeſſion come next under conſideration. Theſe are hoods, jeſſes, varvels, leaſhes, creances, lures, tubs, copping-irons, gloves, blocks, and chamber-perches. Of each in its order.

The HOOD is a covering fitted eaſily to the hawk's head; neatly made of leather; enlivened with two circular bits of velvet, one on each ſide,

ſide, repreſenting eyes; and riſing up with a ſtalk about an inch in height, which terminates in a ſmall tuft of feathers. It is very ornamental to the bird; and the uſe of it is to darken her, that ſhe may not beat from the fiſt, as ſhe is apt to do when bare-faced, and thus hurt her wings.

JESSES are narrow ſtraps of leather, five or ſix inches long, faſtened to the hawk's legs, cloſe to the feet, and, when held by the faulconer, ſerve to keep her ſteady on his fiſt.

VARVELS are ſmall ſilver rings, bound to the ends of the jeſſes, marked with his name who owns the hawk, and inform thoſe who find her ſtraying, where ſhe is to be ſent back.

The LEASHES are thongs about two feet long, inſerted into the varvels, with buttons at the ends, to hinder them from running through altogether; and their uſe is to ſecure the hawk on the faulconer's fiſt, by their being wound about his fingers, or to tie her up to her block.

The

The CREANCES are lines between twenty and thirty fathoms long, knit to the leaſhes, when you would prevent haggards that are for the firſt time entered at game from flying quite away; but uſed to intangle other hawks, in order that they may not carry off their quarry.

The LURE conſiſts of leather ſtuffed with feathers, reſembling the body of a fowl, with the real wings of a drake or grous made made faſt to its ſides, and ſlung on a thong. This deluſion, whirled around the faulconer's head, or thrown up into the air, impoſes on the hawks, and brings them more readily within his reach than they would have otherwiſe come.

The TUB is a flat veſſel, about four inches deep, which is ſet by the block whereon the hawk ſits, and filled with water for her bouſing and bathing.

The COPPING-IRONS are a kind of pincers, with ſharp edges, for paring the beak, pounces, and talons of the hawk, when they are overgrown, and ſo become incommodious to her.

The

The GLOVE, worn by the faulconer on the left hand, is much larger and thicker than any ordinary gloves, and that in order to ſave his hand from being torn by the hawks as he feeds them or carries them in the field.

The BLOCK is a ſolid piece of wood, ſhaped like a ſugar-loaf with the ſix upper inches broken off, whereon the hawk perches, being tyed to it by the leaſh, which goes through the laſt link of a ſmall iron ſwivel fixed in its ſide.

The CHAMBER-PERCH reſembles one of the leaves of a folding ſcreen. It conſiſts of two pieces of wood four feet high, joined together at the top with a bar three feet long, and ſupported erect by a bit of wood nailed to each of the lower ends, in a contrary direction to the bar, which connects them above, and covered over, from top to bottom, with coarſe canvas tacked to their ſides. This frame ſtands in a dining-room, or in any other to which much company reſort; and hawks being ſet on it, become the ſooner tame or manny, pluming and dreſſing themſelves

by candle-light, before the people who are by them.

The LEASH is faſtened ſhort around the upper bar on which the birds are perched; and the uſe of the canvas is to aſſiſt any one of them which happens to fall down to get up again to her place, by catching hold of the threads, and turning herſelf up again.

It is to be particularly obſerved, that dog-ſkin, dreſſed with alum, is preferable to every other kind of leather in the implements of faulconry, as it is known, by experience, to be tougher than any other, and ſo leaſt apt to be torn by the hawks.

CHAP. III.

Of the Spaniels.

THE ſmall breed of SPANIELS called King-Charles's, are excellent for hawking; but, becauſe

cauſe theſe dogs cannot hold out long in ranging, on account of their diminutiveneſs, others of ſomewhat a larger ſize are to be preferred. The Scottiſh and Engliſh ſpaniels are ſtrong enough to bear any fatigue, and, in this reſpect, have the advantage of the kinds I have juſt mentioned; but, as they are two large to paſs through the cover with the eaſe and expedition of the former, they are, for this reaſon, leſs eligible.

The management of the dogs in the field is eaſily underſtood. They muſt be all taught to ſtand ſtill at the crack of a ſhort whip, which the faulconer carries about with him for the purpoſe, and to range through the cover at his accuſtomed whiſtle and call. Their obedience in the firſt caſe is abſolutely neceſſary when the hawk's head is outward, becauſe ſhe would miſs any game they chanced to ſpring when her ſight was in a wrong direction. They are therefore to ſtop till her head be inward again, and, whenever this happens, are, in the ſecond caſe, to obey directly the ſignals by which they are ordered to traverſe the cover again, that ſhe may be ſerved as ſoon as poſſible.

Good

Good dogs make good hawks; for it ruins a hawk to hover on her wings too long, vainly waiting for her prey, by not being inſtantly ſerved.

Beſides the ſpaniels, a ſetting dog is neceſſary. Whenever he makes a ſet, the hawk is to be put to a high place above him; and, when you ſee her there, and her head right in, you are to run in and raiſe the birds before the dog, in order to ſerve her. This gives great advantage to a hawk, on her being, for the firſt time entered, as it enables her to dart directly down on her prey, whereby ſhe hardly ever miſſes it; and thus acquires new ſpirit and confidence in her attacks. But if, after all, ſhe ſhould miſs it, the ſpaniels, being for this end ready uncoupled, are to be hunted into the cover immediately, to retrive or ſpring it again. It is to be obſerved, that high-flying hawks are not to be chaced out of the hood from your fiſt, becauſe this management will ſoon make them forget going to their ſtately gait altogether. The ſpeedy rank-winged hawk is the proper one for chacing; for ſhe never goes to a high gait; but, depending on the force of her

her wings, purſues her prey in its own track, and ſeldom or ever fails to kill it. She is more bloody than the high-flyer; but this laſt affords pleaſanter ſport.

CHAP. IV.

Of Hawks, and of the Familiarity between them and the Faulconer and his Dogs.

THERE is a great variety of hawks in the world; but I propoſe to treat only of thoſe which the ſportſmen uſe in this iſland. Theſe are the faulcon and tercel-gentle, the goſhawk and tercel, the gyrfaulcon and jerkin, the merlin and jack-merlin, the ſpar-hawk and muſket, the lanner and lanneret, and the ſaker and ſakeret.

Before I proceed to the conſideration of the hawks here enumerated, let me recommend it to the faulconer to cultivate a familiarity in his hawks with himſelf and his ſpaniels. The way to

to bring about this familiarity, is to be, both himſelf and his dogs, with them as conſtantly as poſſible. The dogs ought always to be preſent when he feeds and exerciſes them; nay, they ſhould be habituated to lie by them, both when they are in their mew, and on their blocks. The benefit of this familiarity is, that they will attend cloſely on the faulconer and the dogs in the field, and direct their own motions in the air by thoſe they obſerve theſe make below. I have ſeen hawks ſo familiar as to ſit on a dog while he ſlept, and plume and dreſs themſelves in that ſituation. Alſo, when the dog catches a partridge by ſurpriſe, I have ſeen a hawk come down, ſeize him by the head, and take the fowl out of his mouth. The dogs grow fond of the hawks, and never reſent any freedoms of this kind which they take with them. It were of advantage to have the ſpaniels taught to fetch and carry; for, many partridges are killed by the dogs in the cover, and loſt, for want of their being accuſtomed to bring their maſter the game they thus deſtroy.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of the chuſing of the Faulcon-gentle.

THIS bird has received the epithet of gentle, on account of her mildneſs, and eaſineſs to be reclaimed. No hawk exceeds her in ſtrength according to her ſize, or is hardier to endure fatigue. She is excellent to ſport with at either field or brook. It is an obſervation, applicable to all hawks, that they prove bold or cowardly, according as they are firſt quarried or taught.

An error which ſome faulconers have advanced comes to be confuted in this place. They ſay, that hawks taken from the eyrie, before they are ful-ſummed and hard-penned, will have their wings imperfect at their beſt, their legs crooked, and their train, long feathers, and flags full of taints. To this error I oppoſe experience of the contrary; for I have taken hawks from the eyrie, covered only with downs, which, by being fed high with newly killed hot

hot meat, drove their feathers, and were, when fully ſummed and hard, as ſtrong, and proved as good as any I ever had from the eyrie full-driven.

In chuſing hawks, you will take notice, that ſmall faulcons and large tercels are evermore the beſt. The characters of a good hawk are, a large black eye, a round head, wide nares, a ſhort thick beak, a high neck, a round fleſhy breaſt, broad-ſhouldered, ſails full-ſide long, large thighs, ſtrong arms, large feet, black pounces, long wings croſſing the train, and a long train.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Names of Hawks according to their different Ages.

FAULCONS have different names according to their different ages; as eyeſs, ramage-hawk, ſoar-hawk, mewed-hawk, and ſlender hawk.

All

All theſe hawks have different plumes and colours, according to the different countries where they are bred; ſome, for inſtance, are dark and ruſſet. They alſo differ in thier diſpoſitions; ſome being, for inſtance, better for the field, and others for the river.

As to their names, they are called Eyeſſes, while they continue in the eyrie. Some faulconers are againſt hawks from the eyrie; becauſe, ſay they, while they are young, they are troubleſome in feeding, and cry much; and when they are grown, it is difficult to enter them. This objection is of little weight; for they will take new-killed hot meat without any trouble, and never cry, if you feed them often with it. By this management, they become exceeding manny, eaſy to be entered, and, when well-quarried, the beſt hawks for either the field or the river.

The Ramage-hawk is the name by which the eyeſs is known, after ſhe leaves the eyrie; and, during the months of June, July, and Auguſt, hawks of this age turn out excellent birds, when properly reclaimed.

The Soar-hawk is the name which the ramage-hawk paſſes by in the months of September, October, and November. The feathers with which ſhe leaves the eyrie ſhe keeps till the enſuing year, when they are mewed. They are called ſoar-feathers.

The ſoar-hawk changes this name at the end of November, and receives that of Carviſt, which ſhe is known by during the months of December, January, February, March, April, and the half of May, being then carried on the fiſt. Some faulconers repreſent hawks of this age as very great beaters, and therefore little eaters; as frequently troubled with filander-worms, and rarely brought to be good for any thing. Experience confutes this opinion, by which it is certain, that there is no other difference than age between them and thoſe taken in the months of September and October. It is the faulconer's fault if they beat; for he ought not to ſet them bare-faced on their blocks, as, in that condition, irreclaimed hawks will beat in any month. As for the filander-worms, the medicines to be afterwards mentioned will ſhew they may be eaſily prevented, or cured.

cured. Carviſts, therefore, it is evident, may be rendered as good as any hawks whatever, by proper care to reclaim them.

The carviſt, in the middle of March, begins to be called a Mewed Hawk, or Enter-mew, which name ſhe retains till the end of September. During this period, ſhe caſts her feathers, and gets a new coat. Some faulconers object to her, that ſhe is hardly to be truſted, and muſt, on that account, be kept hard under. They are right, if ſhe was not entered the year preceeding; but, if ſhe killed plenty of game, then ſhe is eaſily made manny from the mew, and turns out to be the beſt of all hawks. A hawk which has not been entered at game the firſt year, will never afterwards prove good for any thing.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Of the proper Method of Hooding Hawks which have an Averſion to it from harſh Uſage.

HAUKS are apt to take an averſion to their hoods when they are forced on them roughly and unſkilfully at firſt. The impatient faulconer confirms their averſion, by perſiſting in the ſame violent method whereby he firſt raiſed it; ſo that there is a contention between him and his hawk every time he is going to hood her, vexatious to his own mind, and prejudicial to her health. In order to reconcile her to the hood, obſerve the following plain directions. When at any time whatever you carry her on your fiſt, hang on the little finger of the ſame hand a hood remarkable for the brightneſs of its colour, that it may the better catch her attention. Let it hing there for a week, never permitting the hawk to ſee it during that period in your right hand, and accuſtom her to feed cloſe by it.

The

The next week you may venture to take the hood ſoftly into your right hand, and play it gently about her meat as ſhe is feeding, now and then ſlightly touching her with it. This done, you will return it to your finger again where it hung before in her ſight, till you are to feed her. When you have brought her this way to endure it, you will move it eaſily on her meat, which you muſt hold on your left hand, and ſeem as if you wanted to hinder her from eating. You will now obſerve, that her averſion is decreaſed by her ſtriving to keep it off, and feed beſide it. Then take a little bit of meat in your left hand, and holding the hood by the taſſel in the right juſt over it, provoke her by the ſight of the fleſh to preſs to it through the openings of the hood. When you have made her ſo familiar with the hood as to feed through it without any ſigns of fear, you may augment this familiarity by drawing it over, or ſhaking it about her meat yet more freely. As her averſion is now almoſt gone, you may bear the hood a little againſt her while ſhe feeds through it; and you will find, that in her eagerneſs to eat, ſhe will thruſt her head into it altogether, and withdraw it of her own accord.

cord. When ſhe hoods herſelf in this manner, let her eat freely till ſhe has done with her food; and let the hood remain on her till you are next to feed her.

By following this method you will in leſs than a month bring her to hood herſelf by the leaſt bit of meat, without any trouble. This courſe is tedious indeed, but it will ever gain its end; whereas bobbing, or ſtruggling, renders the hawk forever impatient of the hood. You will take notice, that even this method will be ineffectual, if you begin it when the hawk's ſtomach is weak, becauſe it is by the ſharpneſs of her appetite that her diſlike of the hood is to be overcome. All gentleneſs and care is to be obſerved at firſt, to weaken her fears; and, when ſhe is once formed to your mind, ſhe will with a very little attention continue ſo.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the Faulcon-gentle from the Eyrie.

HAVING theſe forty years paſt kept hawks, I hope it will not be regarded as preſumption to declare, that hawks bred from the eyrie are preferable to any whatever which are taken wild. It is with hawks as with all other creatures. Thoſe which are taken very early from their dams into the care of man, become much more tractable and affectionate than ſuch as are catched wild, which, after all our care to tame them, ſhew a ſtrong diſpoſition to regain their former uncontrolled liberty. This is evidently the caſe with regard to all haggards, by which term is denoted all hawks taken by art from the ſky, in contradiſtinction to thoſe that are reared from the eyrie.

In order to obtain ſuch a hawk as I am recommending, you are to viſit the eyrie frequently the laſt week of May, that being the time when eyeſſes begin to get their feathers. You are not to take them till you ſee their feathers almoſt driven,

driven, and able to bear them from the neſt; for, if you carry them away in the down, they are in danger of contracting a diſagreeable habit of ſhrieking, which is not eaſily broken. It may, however, be broken, by very high feeding, which is alſo neceſſary at this time to raiſe them to their full ſtrength and beauty.

When you think the eyeſſes juſt far enough driven to be taken away, you are to put them in a broad baſket, and cover them with a cloth, that the darkneſs may hinder them from moving and breaking their feathers. But, if they are too far driven to be caught with your hand, and branch from the eyrie to other parts of the rock, you are to let down a flag-net before them, wherein they will be immediately intangled. When you ſee them faſt, let the net drop down, if the bottom below them be ſafe fall on; but, otherwiſe, let them down as quick as you can by the cord. I have ſeveral times catched them this way, even ten days after they had left the eyrie.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Of the Treatment of young Hawks when firſt taken from the Eyrie.

WHEN you have got your young hawks, you are to put them into the mew, which is a houſe deſigned chiefly for feeding hawks the ſecond year, from March to September, at which time they get a new coat. While they are here, you are to viſit them at leaſt three times a day with hot new-killed meat, ſuch as hawks naturally prey on. The food they are fondeſt of is pigeons, ſmall birds, rats, mice, hare, rooks, and chickens; for a faulconer ought to imitate nature as nearly as he can in training them. You are to ſet ſmall blocks in the mew for them to perch on, and to ſpread ſoft hay around the blocks whereon they may reſt on their breaſt in the night, as young hawks always do till their legs are ſtrong enough to carry their weight. When you enter the mew with

their food, preſent it to them hollowing at the ſame time, Ho, ho, ho, as faulconers do; and this hollowing you are to obſerve as often as you feed them. By purſuing this method for a few days, they will come to your fiſt of their own accord, and feed boldly, and in two or three weeks will follow you through the mew.

When you ſee your hawks driven full length in their feathers, you are to have jeſſes, bewits, bells, and varvels in readineſs, and to ſlip them ſoftly on ſome darkiſh evening while they are feeding moſt eagerly, and not minding what you are about. You may then ſlip on their hoods alſo; but be ſure they be eaſy and deep behind, that they may not pinch their heads, and made ſo as to draw cloſe and eaſy below; for, if the hood, as was already obſerved, frighten or hurt them at firſt, they will take a diſlike at it, which cannot be removed without much pains and trouble. You are therefore to carry them always on your fiſt in the day, frequently hooding and unhooding them by candle-light, and giving them a bit of meat when you pull off the hood, and ſlipping it on again while they are feeding. This

treat-

treatment you muſt give them for ſeveral days, and, as your hand will be their perch during that time, they will become quite tame and manny.

CHAP. X.

Of the training of Young Hawks to the Lure.

NOW that your hawks come eagerly to your fiſt, and feed on it fearleſsly, you are to train them to the lure, which ought to be a German one, ſo large and heavy, as that they will not be able to drag or carry it away; for theſe are among the worſt faults that hawks can have. In order to prevent theſe faults, you are to feed your birds on your hand, or on the lure, or on the heck; and it is either in one or other of theſe three ways only you are to feed them for the firſt year. Beware alſo never to throw them their meat as they are either flying, or ſitting on their blocks; never to ſnatch their food haſtily from them as they are feeding; never to come upon them by ſurpriſe, when

when they are on their quarry, yourſelf, or horſes, or dogs. It is during the firſt year they are apteſt to contract the faults I am here putting you on your guard againſt.

But, to return to the luring of them. When they come readily to the lure in the mew, and feed on it, and are well acquainted with, and obedient to your voice, carry them out on a very calm day to the moſt extenſive plain that lies near you; take, at the ſame time, along with you, a perſon who underſtands the hooding and unhooding of hawks, and having carried yours to the field, let him take his ſtation about the middle of it, and ſlacken the hood of one of them. Then go yourſelf to the diſtance of an hundred yards from him, toſs the lure round your head, and hollow with your uſual tone, having previouſly ordered your companion to unhood the hawk as ſoon as he hears your voice. You will find that then the hawk will fly ſtraight for the lure, which you muſt throw out to her; and, as this is the firſt time of her being lured in the field, you muſt have a piece of pigeon or chicken fixed to the lure, that ſhe may not be diſappointed in her expectations.

Next

Next you are to lure her at a ſtill greater diſtance, which you muſt gradually increaſe, till you go as far as to be juſt within her ſight or hearing; and at all diſtances you will find her eager for the lure. This exerciſe you are to give her daily at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and at four o'lock in the afternoon, till you enter her at the poulting, which begins on the 12th day of Auguſt; and, though ſhe was brought from the eyrie only in the firſt week of June preceeding, you will find her grown, even in this ſhort time, ſtrong enough to kill any moor-fowl whatever.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Way in which a Red Hawk is to be brought down or raiſed to proper Plight.

CARE muſt be taken that your young hawk, which we now call a red hawk, be in a middling plight, neither too low nor too high; for, in the firſt caſe, ſhe is too weak to fly with force, and, in

in the ſecond, will not take the trouble to obey the lure. When ſhe is too low, you muſt raiſe her to her ſtrength by high feeding; and when too high, and perhaps too hot, you will give her five or ſix ſmall ſtones over the hand in the following manner.

The hawk being on your left hand, you lay your left leg over the right knee; and ſetting the hawk's train over your left knee, which you do by extending your left hand, whereon ſhe is ſitting, over the left knee, ſo that the part juſt above the wriſt may reſt on the knee, you are to have your pebbles in water ready by you. The hawk being in this poſition, you take between the thumb and middle finger of the right hand one of the pebbles, and, preſſing her beak on both ſides with the fore-finger and edge of the thumb, till ſhe open it, you then put in the ſtone, and puſh it over immediately with the tip of the fore-finger. This way of giving hawks pebbles is ſaid to be over the hand, becauſe you give them with the right hand over the left; but it anſwers beſt with an old experienced faulconer.

The

The ſafeſt way with a young hawk is to caſt her; that is, you deſire a perſon to take her in both his hands by the ſhoulders, and reſt her breaſt on your knee. Then, while he holds her in that ſituation, you pull her legs by the jeſſes and leaſh ſo faſt as not to ſtrain them under your thigh; by which means ſhe is fixed without any hurt. This done, you take the pebbles one by one out of the water, and, preſſing open her beak, make her ſwallow them. There is no ſort of danger to the hawk this way, as ſhe is ſecured from ſtruggling by the hold which your aſſiſtant has of her above, and by the hold which the leaſh has of her below. But the over-hand way may be injurious to her, if the faulconer be not very dextrous in it; for, when ſhe is averſe to the ſtones, ſhe draws back her head as far ſhe as can, to avoid them, and by her violent motions runs much hazard of ſtraining her back. Theſe ſmall ſtones or pebbles cool her, and at the ſame time ſeparate from the pannel whatever foulneſs may adhere to that veſſel.

Immediately

Immediately after the ſtones, you are to give her caſting; that is, the feathers and bones of ſmall birds, or the pinion of the wing of any of the larger birds, or a hare's foot, beaten ſoft, and waſhed with water, which muſt be afterwards ſqueezed out. If the hawk be in good health, ſhe will take the caſting out of your hand of her own accord; and you are to give her that not till after the meat is all paſſed out of the gorge into the pannel, which generally happens three hours after ſhe is fed. If ſhe throws up the caſting early in the night, and appear to be hot, which you will know by her eagerneſs for the bath, you will then give her the ſtones, which ſhe throws next morning. If ſhe need no ſtones, that is, if ſhe be cool, and properly inſeamed, you will delay them till ſhe is in a bad habit of body.

It is to be obſerved, that caſting is abſolutely neceſſary to preſerve a hawk in health, and muſt therefore be given her always ſome hours after ſhe is fed, at night, in order to promote digeſtion; but ſtones are never neceſſary but when ſhe is hot, and are then to be given her after the

the caſting. When ſhe throws up the caſting, which ſhe does in the form of a ball, ſqueeze it, and you will learn by the yellow or clear colour of the liquid which drops from it, whether ſhe is in ill or good health. By theſe rules, and your own experience, you will be able to keep your hawk high and ſtrong for flight, ſharp and eager to wait on in the air.

CHAP. XII.

Of the proper Times of feeding Hawks, in order to have them ready for flying at any particular Time after.

THERE are great miſtakes among faulconers with regard to the proper time of the day when a hawk is in order for flying; but theſe may be eaſily removed. They ariſe from not attending to the time ſhe was fed the day before, and may be prevented by carefully attending to that time. If you want your hawk to fly early next

morning, you are to feed her moderately this evening between three and four o'clock; and, about ſeven, when her food will be gone into the pannel, you are to give her caſting, which will be thrown between four and five o'clock of the enſuing morning. If you want her to fly at mid-day, or the afternoon of next day, you muſt feed her proportionably later. Thus you may know when ſhe is in proper trim for flight, by knowing the time when you fed her laſt the day before; but, to know this the more exactly, you muſt alſo take into conſideration, whether ſhe was fed with light or heavy food, and calculate accordingly.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Birds the Hawk is to fly at and to avoid, when ſhe is in training immediately for Game.

WHEN you have made your hawk come with ſpeed to the lure, by whiſtling her up to a place twice

twice or thrice a day, then take a brown chicken, and, while ſhe is flying about waiting for the lure, throw up the chicken in her ſight. The inſtant ſhe obſerves the fowl, ſhe will fly to and ſeize it; and, for her encouragement, you muſt allow her to feed a gorge of it. By giving her in this manner a chicken two or three different times before you carry her to the field, ſhe will fly at, and kill the firſt poult you ſpring for her. Beware of giving her live pigeons, for that will make her check and fly at them ever after, whenever they come in her way. It is certain, that, if ſhe kill and feed upon a few of theſe birds when ſhe is firſt entered, ſhe will not take the trouble of flying at game; but will leave you in the field, and go home to the pigeon-houſe, where you may be always ſure of finding her fu'-footed. This practice will make her irreclaimable; and therefore you had beſt take off her jeſſes, bewits, and bells, as ſhe is entirely uſeleſs for the purpoſes of diverſion; and, thus ſtripped, you may whiſtle her down the wind to prey on fortune.

I never had two hawks that checked; which I prevented by never permitting them to kill a ſingle pigeon, even when they flew at heck near a pigeon-houſe; and this I effected by the exact care and attention I paid to their feeding, which never having been neglected, ſaved them from the temptation to check. Flying at heck, as it is to be explained preſently, is ſo convenient and natural, that no doubt but every faulconer will prefer it where there is no pigeon-houſe at all, or at a conſiderable diſtance. Some faulconers enter their hawks with live pigeons at the lure, and from their hand; which is ſo abſurd and deſtructive in making of a hawk, that it ought not to be mentioned.

A young red hawk inclines much to the bath, and needs it once in two days. I have already mentioned the tub in which ſhe is to take it. The circumference of it muſt be wide enough to allow her to bathe with her wings quite open. If it be too narrow, ſhe is in danger of beating her tender feathers on the edge of it, which I have ſeen happen. When this is the caſe, the blood or ſubſtance flies out of it, and the feather

ther on the top of the pinion of the wing is by this accident loſt. As it is in a ſituation which affords it little moiſture, it will ſcarce ever come again, after being once deſtroyed.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Management of a Hawk when firſt entered at Game.

THE faulconer is now to go to the moors with his hawk, which I ſuppoſe is by this time well trained to the lure, and ſomewhat acquainted with blood, by the live chickens that were thrown her. Let him give her the bath the day before, and alſo her food and caſting, in the manner I have already directed, by which he will have her in exact trim for flying. Mark where one of the poults ſits down, which you ſpring when you firſt enter the moors, and cauſe your ſetting dog ſet it. Then inſtantly unhood your hawk; ſet her face ſtraight towards the dog; ſpring the bird; let her go off your fiſt; and ſhe will ſoon make it her own.

When

When ſhe has brought it down, go gently round her, while ſhe is pluming the feathers off it, all the time hollowing to her. Let her break upon the bird, and take the head and neck of it; and then lift her ſoftly on your hand, and hood her as ſhe is feeding. After ſhe has killed two or three birds, feed her up on the laſt; for a good reward is great encouragement to a hawk.

You are not to make her fly at all fowls, till after ſhe has killed three or four large poults, that ſhe may not be diſappointed by the ſuperior ſtrength and ſpeed of the former before ſhe has fully acquired her own. A young red faulcon or tercel, when in perfection, is the firſt year very blody; for with ſuch I have killed more fowls than any year thereafter.

Further, if your hawk wait well on at her being firſt entered, hunt your ſetting dog, and keep your hawking ſpaniels in couples. If the bird ſet by the dog, after being ſprung, take to the cover, you are to uncouple the ſpaniels, to retrieve

retrieve them, as it has been already obſerved in a former chapter.

Great care muſt be taken to ſerve your hawk punctually; for many hawks, for want of ſkilful faulconers and good dogs, have been baffled in their expectations, which, had they been kept in blood, and quickly ſerved, would have turned the beſt of hawks. A young hawk is able to fly two days as hard as you pleaſe; but every third you muſt give her weather and bath; and thus proceed during the ſporting ſeaſon. An entermewed, or old hawk, cannot bear ſuch fatigue; and, as ſhe generally goes to a great gate, if you chace her as you do a red hawk, it will bring her from her ſtately gate. Therefore, you are to fly them ſeldom in the day as you ſee them, in order to preſerve their high flying; and, at the ſame time, to carry on your ſport, fly on with your red hawks, which you cannot hurt, if you keep them in blood.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Superiority of the Faulcon from the Eyrie over the Haggard Faulcon.

NOTWITHSTANDING the high eſtimation in which haggard faulcons are held by ſome people, there are two objections to them, which, properly attended to, will very much diminiſh their value.

Firſt, They are naturally given to check; for, when they drive the game into the cover, unleſs the faulconer be very nimble to ſerve them, and very careful to keep them low and nigh himſelf, they rake off with the firſt pigeons or crows that come in their way. This fault renders them uſeleſs.

The *ſecond* objection ariſes in ſome meaſure from the firſt; for, when they happen to be fu'-footed in the evening, and cannot be found that night, they are flown away before you come to the

the field next morning in ſearch of them, being well acquainted with the country, and able to live without human aſſiſtance.

Theſe objections againſt haggard foulcons, as they are bred wild, ariſe from the nature of the birds, and are unanſwerable; but, at the ſame time, they ſhow the ſuperior advantage of hawks from the eyrie, which are free from checking, and will ſtay in the field where you loſt them for a day or two; or, if they know the country, will go home to the heck where you uſed to feed them.

CHAP. XVI.

Of flying at Heck.

LET it be obſerved, that the time for flying at heck is not when you fly your hawk at game every ſecond or third day, but when you are reſolved to intermit ſporting for a week, or longer.

Immediately after you have entered your hawk at moor-fowl, you are to accuſtom her to fly at heck. The propereſt place for flying at heck is an old turreted caſtle, or other large building, where the hawk may have ſeveral places of ſhelter to perch on in ſtormy weather. The beſt ſpot for the heck is the bottom of a garret-window, on which you are to fix a board, projecting two feet in the open air. About the middle of this board two holes are to be made, through which you are to put the ends of a ſmall cord, and then to append to them about two pounds weight of lead, to pull them tightly down. Under the loop made by the cord on the ſurface of the board, and between the two holes, put the hawk's meat, where it will be fixed, while ſhe feeds, by the weight of the lead hanging below. By this ſimple contrivance, the hawk is hindered from flying off with her food, which would not only ſpoil it, but alſo teach her to carry, which would ruin her, if ſhe learned to do it from the heck.

If the houſe be low, and on that account unfit for a board in the window, nail the board

board on the top of a pole about ten feet long, which you will fix erect in the earth, as a heck for the hawk to feed on. The pole muſt be very ſtrong, and firmly fixed in its place, as it muſt bear the weight of a ladder which the faulconer aſcends to put the hawk's meat on the board; but it is to be taken away immediately after, that boys may not diſturb her as ſhe feeds. But the garret-window is much better for a heck than the pole; becauſe, by leaving it open, the hawk goes within, and ſaves herſelf from bad weather. The red tercel, as he is a tame and manny bird, and neither ſo ſtrong nor ſo ravenous as the faulcon, is an excellent flier at heck, and not ready to check.

Some faulconers, in order to hinder their hawks from checking when they fly at heck, fill both the bells with lead. This is a bad method, on two accounts; *firſt*, becauſe it accuſtoms a hawk to fly low, and hinders her from riſing to a ſtately gate; and, *ſecondly*, becauſe it endangers the ſtraining of her back, which, when it happens, deſtroys her altogether.

The

The faulconer muſt mark the time when the hawk is ſharp, which, in the evening, is about four or five o'clock, and in the morning about ſix or ſeven, that he may feed her regularly. Her meet muſt be freſh and warm; for old or cold meat is contrary to her nature, and will ruin her health. This is evident from the haggard, which never returns to feed on the dead pelt of the bird ſhe has killed and taken a gorge of, but muſt have hot blood for her next meal, by killing another bird. If you cannot always command hot new-killed meat, you muſt waſh the cold meat in luke-warm water in winter, and in cold water in ſummer. This food will barely keep her in health, but never in that ſpirit and vigour which ſhe receives from hot blood. But it is to be obſerved, that, if you feed her long on waſhen meat, ſhe will fall away, and is only to be recovered by changing her diet into warm new-killed meat. I muſt again recommend it to the faulconer to feed his hawk very regularly; for if, by his neglect, ſhe find nothing on the heck on her return from her flight, nor ſee him ready to feed her, ſhe will check hens, crows, pigeons, or any other birds, to appeaſe her hunger. Two or three

three neglects of this kind will ruin a hawk to her owner, by giving her a propenſity to check like the haggard. I uſed to feed my hawk ſo regularly at heck, that ſhe often ſat on the top of the pigeon-houſe among the pigeons, without ever meddling with any of them.

When the faulconer leaves home, he is previouſly to take down his hawk and ſet her on a block in the garden under a ſhade, where, in ſummer ſhe may be ſheltered from the heat, in winter from the tempeſt. Here the dogs will lie and ſleep by her; whither alſo they will come, if they chance to loſe you in a ſtrange place. When the faulconer returns, he is to feed his hawk high, and ſet her to her wings. She will range then for ſome miles around, and, on finding herſelf ſharp-ſet, return to the heck. I have kept hawks at heck the whole year, except cawking-time, which continues the month of March and part of April. During this ſeaſon, you are to take down your hawk from the heck, and to ſet her on a block in the garden in the day-time, with a tub and water and ſtones by her, and to put her in the mew at night. Lure her as often

as

as the weather is good. But beware of wild haggards; for they will, in cawking-time, decoy your hawks away to the rocks, where they have their ſeveral eyries. I once had my tercel thus carried off by a haggard faulcon in March; but recovered him on going to the eyrie.

CHAP. XVII.

Of the Advantages of flying at Heck.

THIS way of flying at heck keeps your hawk in continual health and metal; and, as you may feed her as high as you pleaſe, you may bring her to fly as hard as any haggard. It is, on theſe accounts, preferable to the old method of confining them; a method certainly contrary to their natural bent and diſpoſition. It ſpoils their digeſtion, engenders diſeaſes, benumbs their joints, and robs them of their ſpirit and alacrity. By this means, the faulconer, inſtead of deriving pleaſure from his hawks, takes up his time in preparing drugs for their recovery; and, before that

that is effectuated, the ſporting ſeaſon may be gone. But hawks that fly at heck are free from all theſe inconveniencies, and not only equal, but ſurpaſs haggards. For, I have ſeen my hawk flying along with a wild one at the ſame partridge; and, on coming up, I always found the former fu'-footed, which is a proof ſhe had outſtripped her companion in flight. Nay, if you take from the haggard her exerciſe, her regular feeding, and confine her to a block or mew, ſhe will ſoon loſe her natural ſpeed and ſtrength, and fall far ſhort of a hawk bred to fly at heck.

It is obſervable, that the faulconers of former times were unacquainted with this way of making hawks. Nor had they any occaſion for it, as their ſport was all chacing, not high-flying, which laſted the poulting and partridging ſeaſon; and, when this was over, they threw their hawks into the mew, till it returned the enſuing year. They carried on their poulting in July with red hawks; and, when they could not make them fly hard enough by their confined way of keeping them, they unjuſtly gave them out as naturally worſe than

than haggards. But the contrary opinion has been already eſtabliſhed.

The beſt ſport, that of high-flying, is at the woodcock, from the beginning of November till the end of March, when the cawking-time is moſtly over; and, about the middle of April, ſet her to her wings.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of the proper Food for Hawks while they fly at Heck, and when they fly at Game.

NO fleſh is better for a hawk than dog-fleſh when newly killed. With this food feed your hawk two or three months in ſummer while ſhe is flying at heck. It is eaſy of digeſtion, exceeding nutritive, and very efficacious to make the hawk drive her feathers. Give her as much as ſhe pleaſes; for the violence of her exerciſe will enable her to digeſt it, and you will have her driven

driven a month ſooner than by any other ſort of food whatever. But it is her great exerciſe which renders it ſo wholeſome; becauſe, were ſhe confined to a mew or to a block, without much flying, it is more than probable that it would bring on diſeaſes.

As ſoon as her feathers are driven, you muſt leave off giving her dog's fleſh; and, in order to prepare her for the moors, or partridges, you are to give her ſtones, and plumage, and hot meat, ſuch as pigeons, ſmall birds, hare's fleſh, &c. The ſtrength of a faulcon, when in good order, is amazing. One day, when I was in the field, as my faulcon was flying above the dogs, which were buſy ſeeking game, a hare ſtarted, which had been wounded before; the hawk perceiving her, came down, and, by two ſtrokes on the head, made her tumble over, and, at the third, held her faſt, ſhe being now quite worn out. To encourage the hawk, I gave her the heart, with a full gorge of the hare; and, ever after, ſhe flew at hares as at other game, killing them at two or three ſtrokes, when they were clear of

the cover. In this way a hare can hardly eſcape, eſpecially if the dogs are in with them.

CHAP. XIX.

Of Birding Hawks.

Birding is a method of training hawks unknown to the faulconers of former times. It is the beſt way of habituating your hawk to wait, jump on, and to go to a great gate. Nothing in the practice of faulconry is more delightful, and, at the ſame time, more convenient, than to have your hawk in the ſky waiting on you for a mile or two, till you have hunted all the fields and covers below her with your ſpaniels. It is highly entertaining to obſerve the rapid ſtoops ſhe makes from her height as you ſpring her game. The faulconer and his company mark them with looks and exclamations of admiration and delight.

Larks

Larks only are proper for birding, on account of the great height to which they fly. To catch them, obſerve the following contrivance: Go to the field with a hawk on your fiſt, and carry along with you a boy with a flag-net. As ſoon as you mark a lark, go round and round it, holding out your hawk, the fear of which will make it lie cloſe. Then order your boy to throw the net over it, with your aſſiſtance, and take it up. In this way you may procure in ſummer as many larks as you pleaſe. But, in winter, when they will not ſit till you find them, you are to uſe a bang-net. This net is about eighteen or twenty fathoms long, and about two deep, with a ſmall cord along the bar of it, about three or four fathom at each end longer than the net. You are alſo to provide another cord longer than the net, and to tie to the middle of it, at ſmall diſtances, three or four bunches of ſtraw, which faulconers call the baſſel.

Theſe things prepared, you muſt ſet out at the dawn, or at the twilight; for at either of theſe times larks fly not high, but ſkim along the ground. Obſerve where a lark ſits down among

among the ſtubbles; then two men, one at each end, hold the net looſe at its length on the ground, and other two bear the cord with the baſſel along, ever and anon rapping it againſt the ſtubbles, towards thoſe who take care of the net. As ſoon as they raiſe the lark by this motion, the bird ſweeps along the ground towards the net. When the men at the net, who, for the greater readineſs, muſt be on their knees, ſee the lark within two or three yards of the net, and juſt about to fly over it, they bang it immediately up, and then let it fall, whereby the bird is taken. Thus I have ſeen ten or twelve larks taken, without miſſing one.

You are to catch no more larks than will ſerve your hawk a ſingle day, two being ſufficient for one hawk in the forenoon, and two in the afternoon: For, when they are kept too long, they grow faint, and ſo cannot fly high enough. When you take them, put them into a bag, with ſmall holes to admit freſh air; and hang the bag in a dark place, that by beating they may not weaken themſelves.

Your

Your larks being ready, take one of them out of the bag, and ſiel it. Sieling is performed in this manner: Pull out one of the train feathers; ſtrip the plume off one ſide of it; and then put it through the one under eye-lid, over the beak; and laſtly through the other under eye-lid. Thus the plume of the other ſide of the feather, ſtanding out under the eyes of the bird, hinders it from looking below; and as it can ſee only above, it will fly upwards as high as it can reach. Then whiſtle up your hawk; and when you ſee her head right in, throw up the ſieled lark, which generally ſhe will ſoon make her prey; and you muſt ſuffer her to eat it. But, when the lark gets ſtraight up to its height, the hawk, by purſuing it, is alſo accuſtomed to go to a high gate.

You may ſiel your lark ſo as ſhe will have more light, and by that means render it the more difficult for the hawk to overtake it. And at other times you may give her an unſieled lark; but, if it outfly her, be ſure to throw up a ſieled one to her, that ſhe may not be diſappointed.

This

This done every day before the partridging and cocking ſeaſons, the hawk will learn to wait well on, and go to a great gate; particularly the tercel, which is naturally a high-flyer, and does not carry. He ſhould be trained more than the faulcon by birding.

CHAP. XX.

Of Imping the Hawk's Feathers when broken.

THE feathers that are proper to be imped are the ſix large feathers from the top of the wing to the flag-feathers. The firſt feather is called the Ceſſel, the ſecond the Longapen, the third the Coutel; after the fourth, fifth, and ſixth, follow the flags, above the turn of the wing to the ſhoulder. Theſe flags, as they are too ſmall, cannot be imped; and therefore exact care muſt be taken to preſerve them. But the train feathers may be imped; and, to this purpoſe, you muſt have by you faulcon and tercel wings and trains,

trains, or thoſe of any other hawks you happen to keep.

To remedy misfortunes of this ſort, when they befal your hawk, you are to be provided with needles of the following ſhape. Take a bit of iron-wire two inches in length, and with a file wear it down into a triangular form, ſharpened at both ends. Then cut through, with a very ſharp knife, the feather which is damaged, in the place where you think it ſtrongeſt, taking all care in the cutting of it, that you take off none of the plumes on either ſide from the piece you leave in the wing or train of the hawk. This done, get a correſponding feather, and from it cut off a piece, of the exact length of that which you have cut from the damaged feather, taking here the greateſt care alſo that you cut off none of the plumes on either ſide of this piece. Next, thruſt an inch of the needle into the part of the damaged feather which remains in the bird, and force on the other inch the piece which is to ſupply the place of that which was damaged, till both meet exactly together. Thus, in each part, there will be juſt an inch of the needle, and the

tne feather will look as intire, and be as ſtrong, as if it had never been broken. The needle muſt not be too ſmall, for fear the new piece turn on it, nor too thick, leſt it ſplit both parts of the feather; and it muſt be wetted with ſalt and water that it may ruſt, and ſo hold both parts the better together. The faulconer, if he is not accuſtomed to imping, will do well to practiſe it on ſome uſeleſs feathers before he try it on his hawk, leſt his want of ſkill ſhould ſpoil her. Imping, I know by experience, will reſtore a hawk to the uſe of her principal feathers, after being broken, and enable her to fly as well as ever ſhe did before her miſchance.

There is another way of imping, when the feather is broken at the quill, where a needle is of no ſervice. When this is the caſe, cut the quill nicely round, and fill it with a wooden pin which will exactly fill it; but beware not to thruſt it ſo far in, as to hurt the hawk where the feather adheres to her fleſh. Then take a correſponding feather, the quill of which is alſo nicely rounded, and put it on the other end of the pin, preſſing it onward till it meet the quill of

of the hawk. To faſten them the better, dip the pin, before you join the quills by it, in iſing-glaſs glue, and afterwards ſet your hawk in a dark place, till the whole harden and grow firm. This way of imping, however, is leſs ſecure than that by the needle. Yet this trouble is worth the taking only when your hawk is remarkably good; otherwiſe you need not keep her to the following year, as you can have red hawks from the eyrie about the end of May.

CHAP. XXI.

Of the Haggard Faulcon.

HAVING now treated, at a conſiderable length, of the faulcon from the eyrie, I proceed to diſcourſe of the ſame bird as taken wild from the ſky. This hawk, reared by nature, is ſtrong, ſpirited, and patient of every ſort of weather. She ranges, uncontrollable, over ſea and land; and ſeizes for her habitation thoſe places which beſt pleaſe her fancy. Such is her terror, that

the tercel, her natural companion, dares not to approach her but in the gentle ſeaſon of love; and even then, he is ſo overawed, that he courts her favour by the timorous and winning marks of intire ſubmiſſion. There is no bird the object of her fear; and it is not till after frequent defeats, that ſhe declines the battle with thoſe which are actually beyond her power. Theſe excepted, the reſt are her prey as they happen to fall in with her flight; particularly green plovers and pigeons, as they are in greateſt plenty. She does not obtain her food but by hard flying; and this exerciſe, as it is wholely under her own regulation, is ſo far from being injurious to her, that it preſerves her in perfect health and vigour. Glut in her ſtomach, and ſhort-wind, both cauſed by reſt, or ill-managed exerciſe, and not ſo eaſily cured as prevented, are diſorders ſhe is unacquainted with in the wide range of the air. She is her own phyſician, not only in exerciſe, but alſo by feeding on the muſtard-ſeed and carlock ſhe finds in the crops of the pigeons when they are her prey, and which are to her in the place of medicine. Thus ſhe is evermore in ſtrength, ſubject to hardly any other diſeaſe than old age, and in danger

ger form no other quarter than the reſentment of man.

The way in which the haggard faulcon manages herſelf is that we ought to follow, as nearly as we can, in training her from the eyrie, or in treating her when ſhe comes wild into our hands. I have already made the former part of this obſervation, in diſcourſing of the faulcon gentle, and ſhall endeavour to illuſtrate the remaining part of it in what I have to ſay concerning the haggard faulcon. Let me juſt add, towards the further elucidation of what I have formerly ſaid on this head, that, without frequent flights, it is impoſſible to have a good hawk. She grows uſeleſs by conſtant reſt; and therefore it muſt be often interrupted by exerciſe. The faulconer muſt have a perpetual eye on her, obſerving her flights, her ſuppers, her digeſtion, her caſting, her muting, and ſlicing, whether often and drooping, which is dangerous; as by catching heat, after her drawing, while ſhe is in her greaſe, or by ſome tedious flight, flown before ſhe be thoroughly clean, by receiving a great gorge after the ſame, which occaſions the cray and ſilanders, which proceed from the cold and

and dulneſs of the ſtomach, not kindly digeſting what it receiveth.—Now I go on to unfold the method of reclaiming her.

CHAP. XXII.

Of the Manner of reclaiming the Haggard Faulcon.

HAGGARDS are taken by art. Fix a pigeon by a ſtring on the ground which you know to be frequented by wild hawks; and having ſpread your net near the pigeon, conceal yourſelf out of ſight. A haggard perceiving the fowl will come ſouſe down on it; and the moment you ſee her fu'footed, pull the net over her, and take her up.

When you have got a haggard by this or by any other ſtratagem, you will find her full of meat; therefore your beſt way is to ſet her in a dark place, in order to keep her from beating, till ſhe have emptied herſelf. Next morning ſiel her; that is, ſtitch her eye-lids not quite cloſe together, and carry her all day on your fiſt.

fiſt. Set her by you in the night, with a piece of twine tied to her foot, which you will pull now and then, to keep her from ſleeping; and at the ſame time call to her. When you diſcover, by ſtroking her with a feather, that ſhe has left off ſtarting, you are to accuſtom her to the rufter-hood.

The method of treating her when taken empty is the ſame with this now laid down; for ſhe is on theſe occaſions angry and fretful, and thereby ſubject to diſeaſes.—A feather is much better than your hand to ſtroke her withal; becauſe it feels ſoft and gentle, and is therefore more agreeable to her. When ſhe endures it eaſily, you are mildly and quickly to pull off and put on her hood at proper intervals of time. You are alſo gradually to ſlacken the ſieling, and to hold this courſe till ſhe take to feeding. You are to give her meat often, but in ſmall bits; and the beſt time for feeding her is juſt before taking off her hood, and juſt before putting it on, in order to make it agreeable to her. All the while you are to uſe your voice to her, and no longer than till ſhe has done feeding, that

that it may be a ſignal to her of your going to feed her.

When you have brought her to endure the hood, and feed with courage, you are to teach her to jump to your fiſt. Set her on a perch ſo high that you may be under her ſight, becauſe ſhe will be afraid, and beat, if ſhe ſee you above her; then unſtrike her hood, and lure her with a bit of meat, uſing your voice at the ſame time, and ſhe will fly directly to your hand. Then, while ſhe feeds, you are to hood her.

Proceed in this kind way till you have rendered her familiar, and made her ſtomach perfect; above all things taking care not to diſguſt her at you. The ſtomach is the principle of her obedience; and therefore it ought to be carefully kept ſound, ripe, and ſharp.

Now you may venture to pull off her hood, and let her ſit bare-faced by you. If you then perceive in her any ſigns of impatience or uneaſineſs, in order to put her into good humour, offer her

her a bit of meat, uſing your voice at the ſame time. This done, if ſhe readily jump to your fiſt and take the meat, it is the proper time to accuſtom her to the lure.

As ſoon as your hawk comes readily in the creance to the lure furniſhed with meat, it will then be proper to ſhew her a live fowl at it. When ſhe has killed the bird, and eaten the head, take her gently up with a bit of meat, and, while ſhe is feeding, put on her hood. Then lure her again to the dead pelt, and do ſo two or three times only; for ſhe will at laſt diſcover your purpoſe, and, being unwilling to be deprived of her prey, ſhe will learn to drag it from you. When you take her prey often from her, ſhe will feel herſelf injured, and begin to hate you.

To lure her often at one time, and at her firſt entrance, is the way to have her ſoon ready for game; but uſe the lure no oftener than I have directed. To uſe it oftener, is more hurtful to a field-hawk than to a river one, for the reaſon now given, that it renders her inclined to carry. There-

Therefore, after ſhe comes willingly to the lure, it is high time to lure her looſe to live fowls. You muſt let her ſeize on them, and kill them, one after another, even at your feet, for ſix days together, taking care to have her carried by a perſon who has ſkill to let her in with her head right towards you. Lure her at a ſmall diſtance, till her ſtomach be perfect, and herſelf very ready to anſwer; for, otherwiſe, ſhe may ſpy ſomething elſe out of her way which ſhe likes better, and ſo check for that time, which would much hurt her, though ſhe ſhould be recovered again.

While ſhe is on the ground pluming herſelf, or feeding, be ſure you always walk around her, uſing your voice, and giving her bits with your hand. Continue to treat her in this manner all the time of her making, till you have won her to lean and bend her body to your hand, and to ſhew herſelf at leaſt willing to bring you whatever ſhe has in her foot.

Now it will be proper to ſpring her up ſome live fowls as ſhe comes to you between your aſſiſtant and the lure; and take care they be given

in

in a long creance, that ſhe may not kill them far from you. Contrive it ſo, that ſhe may rake them over your head, and fall near you; for, by this means, ſhe will be familiariſed to your preſence, and do her buſineſs in it with courage. But, were ſhe to ſee you, while ſhe is ſitting, coming at a great diſtance, ſhe would be ready, through fear, to ſtare at you, and to drag, or even to forſake her prey altogether. For want of attention to this direction, many hawks have been rendered uſeleſs. Having, in this manner, beſtowed half a dozen fowls on your hawk, you may, in the evening, ſuffer her to fly about you, holding her with your voice and lure as near you as you can, that ſhe may purſue her game even over your head. When ſhe is in the air, and, her head right in, throw her up a live fowl; and when ſhe has killed it, be ſure to reward her well; and your generoſity will hinder her from dragging or carrying. Evermore remember to draw in your hawk by the creance with great gentleneſs, and to treat her ſo on every other occaſion, as the beſt way to gain her affection. By this method, ſhe will be ſo far from dragging, that ſhe will meat you with the dead fowl of her own ac-

cord, ſatisfied with the piece ſhe knows you are to give her.

CHAP. XXIII.

Of the ill Qualities of Hawks, and how they are to be cured.

IT is of great importance to underſtand the diſpoſition of your hawk, in order to train her up with ſucceſs. There are ſome hawks which, after your utmoſt pains to breed them properly, will abandon you the moment they are at liberty. Your black and ſwarthy-plumed hawks have moſt commonly this untractable temper. They are indeed birds of metal and high flight, but impatient of controul, and difficult to be brought under ſubjection.

To reclaim your hawk from this wandering diſpoſition, you are to abate her pride with waſhen meat and caſting, paying always a proper regard to the nature of the weather. If it be ſoft and mild,

mild, you can do her no hurt by keeping her pretty low, till ſhe amend her bad manners; and then you are to raiſe her gradually to her proper pitch. But, if the weather be cold and violent, you muſt beware of bringing down her fleſh too quickly, and of keeping it too long down.

This done, take a ſtaunch make-hawk, and, in the evening, throw up a fowl to her when you have ſent her to the air. After ſhe has ſtooped once or twice, and is juſt about to kill it, ſtand under the wind with your hawk, let her ſee the fowl ſtruck, and go to the quarry. If ſhe fly in with impetuoſity, and ſeize the fowl with courage, in this caſe, you are to croſs the wings of the fowl to hinder it from beating againſt your hawk, and ſuffer both her and the make-hawk to feed a few minutes together on it. Then, with clean meat, gently take up your make-hawk, and leave the quarry to the other, that ſhe may take her pleaſure on it. But beware ſhe take no pile or pelf, which would glut her; but reward her with clean meat as ſhe ſits on the fowl; and thus treat her three or four times.

This

This kind of hawk is only proper for water-fowl; and, if the next time you carry her to the brook, ſhe fly eagerly with the make-hawk at her prey, you may hope well of her for this ſport. But, if ſhe fly away after all your pains in this way, you are to conſider her as irreclaimable.

There is another ſort of hawks which are of a mild diſpoſition, eaſily managed, and brought to your wiſhes in making them. Spring up a couple of fowls, throw off your make-hawk at them, and, after ſhe has ſtooped once, or is juſt going to do ſo, let in your other hawk. If ſhe look keenly on the make-hawk, and contend in flight with her, let her fly on till ſhe has almoſt overtaken her. Then ſhew her the fowl, if you did not ſo before, and let her ſtill contend for it with her antagoniſt; and ſo much the better if they kill it at the next down-come. This will give your young hawk great heart, and make her fly with more eagerneſs another time. A hawk ought to be always ſerved, if poſſible, before ſhe grow weary; for much fatigue is apt to diſguſt her, even when ſucceſsful.

There

There is a third ſort of hawks which are made without much trouble, but are, on trial, found to be of an aſpiring temper, which is apt to ſpurn at obedience. To a hawk of this character, little liberty is to be allowed while you are making her; ſhe muſt not be indulged in either very high or very extenſive flights, but be kept as cloſe by you as poſſible. For, otherwiſe, when ſhe comes to be well blooded on fowl, you never can command her flights; nor will ſhe mind a make-hawk, but look for her prey in her own way, as if ſhe were wild. If you would therefore gain her affection, you muſt ſhew her game very ſpeedily, elſe ſhe will ſeek it for herſelf, regardleſs of your attention.

There is a fourth ſort of hawks, which are fair plumed, that are very bold and ſpirited, and, when ſkilfully reclaimed, have much attachment. One of theſe, let in with other hawks, will be reclaimed with two or three quarries; but, if you have no other hawks, greater trouble is requiſite to make them by themſelves. In this caſe, they muſt be ſtrong, and their ſtomachs eager to urge them on.

Chuſe

Chuſe that hour of a fine evening, when all check is paſt; and know alſo of a couple of ſmall fowls in a brook, where you may not be perceived by them.—Large waters, and many ſtrong fowls, give much fatigue to a young hawk. Then throw off your hawk as near them as you can conveniently, that ſhe may be but a ſhort while on wing before ſhe ſpy them. If ſhe fly hard and cloſe, ſhe will bring down one of them at the ſecond ſtoop; for the impetuoſity of a hawk terrifies her prey, and brings it the ſooner into her power. But, if ſhe fail, have in your pocket a fowl ready to throw up to her, before ſhe have tired herſelf too much in purſuit of the one you ſprung to her from the brook. That ſhe will eaſily overtake; and it will ſerve to put her into ſpirit after her fruitleſs chace.

Continue to treat her in this way, while ſhe flies ſolitarily, and ſhe will ſoon come to your mind; for nothing ſo much hurts a young hawk's keenneſs as many toilſome ſtoops to no purpoſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

Of Bathing and Weathering Hawks.

HAWKS that are perfectly ſound, ſeldom ſhew any inclination for the bath; but, when diſeaſe heightens the natural heat of their conſtitution, they are very deſirous of it.

A hawk which flies at water-fowl is ſo often wetted in chace of her prey, that ſhe needs no other bathing than ſhe receives on theſe occaſions. But water ought to be ſet by other hawks; and when they bathe, let them dry themſelves in the air, if the weather is temperate. But, if it is cold, it is neceſſary to dry her at ſuch a diſtance from the fire, as will bring the heat of it neareſt to the mild warmth of the ſunny air. Then ſet her on a perch where the cold cannot reach her, and let her come no more abroad that day or night. Too hot a fire would over-dry her feathers, and alſo overheat her body;

body; two bad effects, which are carefully to be avoided.

Whereas the haggard is reared by her dam in the open air, on the tops of high mountains, and afterwards expoſed to all ſorts of weather; therefore you muſt fall in ſomewhat with her nature in this reſpect.

The evening and the morning are the proper ſeaſons for giving her the weather or the air, and then before ſhe is fed. You are alſo to weather her in her hood, in which ſhe will ſit quiet and peaceable; but, when ſhe is bare-faced, ſhe will beat and ſtruggle, to the great danger of hurting herſelf, as well as of relapſing into her natural wildneſs.

After ſhe has been ſufficiently weathered, you are to feed her with clean meat, on your fiſt, and then to hood her, as before.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

Of the Times when Haggards are to be taken into the Mew; and how to prepare them for it.

ABOUT the firſt of March haggards leave the countries abroad, where they had ſpent the winter, prompted by nature to return to their eyries for the deed of generation.

This is the time when old haggards are to be ſet down in the mew, and muſt be fed high, to preſerve them from languiſhing under confinement, as alſo to raiſe them to their natural violence for their kind.

Intermewed haggards, being ſtronger to reſiſt the incitements of nature, may be flown to about the middle of March, and are then to be ſet down.

The paſſenger ſoar-faulcons, being young, are more delicate and tender than the reſt, and

muſt therefore be better fed than the other mewed hawks. They are impatient of confinement; but with proper management may be made excellent hawks, and flown a month longer than the others. The firſt of April is the time when they are to be ſet down in the mew.

When you prepare your hawk for the mew, you muſt raiſe her fleſh gently, never giving or ſuffering her to take great gorges, for fear of ſurfeits. While ſhe flew, this caution was leſs neceſſary, becauſe her exerciſe enabled her to digeſt her plentiful diet, and your care to give her ſtones, kept her ſtomach free of glut to harm her. But as your intent is now only to raiſe her fleſh, to prepare her for the mew, to give her the ſame quantity of food you uſed to give her, without the ſame exerciſe to digeſt it, will overload her ſtomach, and, inſtead of fatneſs, will fill her with diſtempers.

Now, if you have kept her clean during the flying ſeaſon, you may ſet her down on two meals a day, of hot and bloody meat, proportioned

tioned exactly to her power of digeſtion. When in a week or two you perceive her mended, you are to feed her only once a-day; and then, if you give her young pigeons fleſh, ſo much the better; but be ſure to pluck off the feathers, for fear of check. If that fleſh is not to be had, you muſt give her ſuch other ſtronger food as you have, but in ſmaller quantity, according to its ſtrength.

By this preparation your hawk will be ſoon in health and fleſh for the mew; but, without it, is in imminent hazard of periſhing by indigeſtion.

CHAP. XXVI.

Of putting your Hawk into the Mew; and of her Treatment there.

BEFORE you put your hawk into the mew, clean her from all ſorts of vermin, ſuch as mites and lice, with which ſhe may happen to be troubled, and will hinder her from thriving

ving in the mew. Take off her old jeſſes, and give her a pair of new ones, which may be ſtrong enough to laſt till you ſet her down again; for to put them on when you draw her would make her ſtruggle, and thus perhaps run her greaſe. Keep the mew ſweet and clean with air and ſweeping; and often examine your hawk's caſting and mutes, to diſcover the ſtate of her health. Let her always have plenty of freſh and clear water by her, and alſo of pebbles in gravel, that ſhe may take, in her uneaſineſſes, the remedies to which nature directs her. Clean the meat you ſhoot for her from the black and and bruiſed fleſh which is ſpoiled by the lead and gun-powder; for it is far from being wholeſome.

The greateſt cleanlineſs is to be obſerved in every thing about her, and is exceedingly conducive to her health.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

How the Hawk is to be taken from the Mew.

WHEN you take your hawk from the mew, you muſt take care to ſet her on a perch, with as little beating or ſtruggling as poſſible, to prevent her throwing herſelf into a heat. Set her where ſhe may ſee and hear people, without being diſturbed or exaſperated by them. Then take her very ſoftly on your fiſt, carry her lightly up and down, and ſtroke her gently with a feather. When ſhe grows impatient and reſtleſs, ſet her directly down on her perch; and proceed in this mild way till ſhe admit of greater familiarities; but, above all things, take care to keep her quiet.

To reclaim and enſeam a hawk from the mew require the higheſt care and attention, on account of her fatneſs; and whatever overheats her does, for that reaſon, endanger her life.

When,

When, by your patient and ſoft uſage, you have brought her to eat, you are to feed her twice a day with new meat, cleanſed from the blood in fair water, allowing her juſt as much, and no more, than ſhe can eaſily digeſt.

For the firſt week, or ten days, give her neither caſting nor ſtones; but, after that term, give her every night half a dozen of ſtones, after ſhe has diſcharged her ſupper from her gorge into the pannel; and theſe ſhe will caſt very early next morning.

The third week, you may begin to give her every night a caſting, gradually augmenting the quantity of her meals, and not waſhing her food quite ſo hard as at firſt, paying always a ſuitable regard to the ſtrength of her ſtomach. This regimen you are to obſerve till, and during all the flying ſeaſon.

Stones and caſting are not to be given her the firſt week, becauſe ſhe is then unruly and full of greaſe; and, were ſhe to be ever ſo little heated in this condition, ſhe would probably never caſt them,

them, and ſo periſh. The ſecond week ſhe is become leſs unruly, and has diſcharged ſome of her fat; and therefore is able to receive and caſt ſtones. The third week her ſtomach has recovered its proper order, and conſequently ſhe will chearfully take her caſting every night.

At this time, you ſhall not find by her caſting, or mutes, much greaſe come from her; nor yet obſerve that ſhe reclaims and enſeams according to your expectations. But there is ſtill greaſe in her, though, for want of exerciſe, it does not appear; and therefore you muſt begin to lure her, and give her the benefit of her wings, at firſt, in ſhort and eaſy flights, which are to be by degrees lengthened, according as her health increaſes. Give her no ſtones in the day, becauſe then they hinder her from taking food with ſafety, but at night, when they are very powerful in removing the glut and ill humours of the hawk.

When you give her caſting of flannel or cotton, take care to have them waſhen as clean as they can be; for, when they are naſty, the filth of either diſorders the ſtomach of the hawk, and makes

makes her ſometimes caſt it up next morning all black and tawny, with her meat undigeſted.

The beſt time to give this ſort of caſting is when the hawk is inſeaming, and foul in her greaſe; for then her diſordered ſtomach is leſs apt to be affected by it, than when ſhe is in a ſtate of pure health. Even when ſhe is in her greaſe, it ſometimes forces her to caſt in the morning, before her time, when her ſupper is not yet perfectly digeſted. When this happens, her caſting is unwrapped, of a tawny colour, and filled with muddy water; on which account, flannel or cotton ought to be given only on light ſuppers, with ſome plumage, but never on a great gorge. When, in a morning, ſhe makes a looſe unwrapped caſting of plumage, give her a little knot, with ſtones, to bring away ſtraggling feathers out of the pannel.

From the caſting, you may learn the ſtate of your hawk's body. If the caſting looks black and ſcorched, ſhe is hot and dry; give her then no more flannel or cotton, but plumage inſtead of it. If, from the caſting, inſtead of a clear water, which

which is a ſign of health, you ſqueeze a roaping froth, this is a ſign of great heat and drought; which, however, is the leſs to be feared, if the caſting be wrapped. This is moſt commonly the caſe with hawks which are flown before they be thoroughly cleaned. But they may be cured by eaſy gorges of good meat, with very pure water along with it, during a week, without any caſting, but half a dozen of ſtones, with the ſtump of a wing, every night after ſhe has put away her ſupper.

If this courſe do not reſtore her health in a week, continue it till it have the deſired effect; and then ceaſe to give your hawk any more woolen caſting, as it appears unnatural to her.

Further, with reſpect to the giving of ſtones; it is beſt to give them at night to haggards and ramage-hawks; becauſe theſe birds will not be ſo well reclaimed in a ſhort time, but that they will have pride and a ſtirring humour in them, eſpecially in the morning after their night-reſt. To remove theſe ailments, it is proper you ſet them in a dark place, and give them ſtones at night; for

then your hawks being quiet, do not ſtir, beat, or ſtrain their bodies, while they are loaded with them. I know by experience, contrary to the opinion of ſome, that the ſtones will not over-heat her when ſhe is in this condition.

When you have brought your hawk to perfect health and flying, neglect not to give her ſtones after ſtrong food, to purge away the ill humours that will be bred by it in her ſtomach. If you imagine her greaſy after a long flight, give her ſtones after a light ſupper;—let her plume herſelf, and ſet her up warm.

Upon the whole, you ought never to fly your hawk from the mew, till by gentle treatment you have reclaimed her, and by tender food and moderate exerciſe you have thoroughly cleanſed her.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

How it may be known whether a Hawk be properly Enſeamed.

WHEN your hawk is much inclined to bowſing, this is a ſign that her body is too hot. If this heat ariſes from foulneſs and greaſe remaining in her after ſhe has been flown, her mouth and throat will appear whitiſh, her breath ſmell diſagreeably, and her mutes will have the bluiſh colour of ſtale ſkimmed milk.

If, from too great haſte to have your hawk in flying order, you bring her quickly down by ſcouring and medicines, you will, inſtead of enſeaming her, reduce her to a ſtate of feebleneſs, wherein ſhe will be uſeleſs. The art and ſkill of a faulconer is to keep his hawk high of body, when ſhe is ſcoured and enſeamed, that ſhe may be able to fly with force; and, if he cannot keep his hawk in this condition, he is no faulconer.

In

In this caſe, you will obſerve her mutes mingled with a kind of curdled matter, of a white colour, which ſhews her not only afflicted with heat, but alſo with ſomething of the cray.

Hawks of all kinds contain and produce within them a kind of watery ſlime, which, while it is in moderate quantity, is neceſſary to their health; but hurtful when redundant. Plumage is the natural cure of this redundancy.

Very often it happens that the hawk appears to the eye thoroughly enſeamed, when ſhe is not in that condition. Nothing is found in her mutes or caſtings which looks like greaſineſs; and hence a haſty faulconer concludes ſhe is in fine order. But this only proves her pannel is clean; and this part is generally cleanſed by caſting, ſtones, and good meat, before the reſt of the body, which, after all theſe means, is ſtill foul. If the hawk be heated in this ſituation, her life is ſtill greatly endangered; and therefore time and gentle exerciſe muſt be taken to enſeam her body, after the pannel is put into order. Too much haſte is here to be avoided;

voided; for a hawk drawn from the mew cannot be well prepared for flight in leſs than the ſpace of four weeks.

Hawks which are ſooner flown at game may indeed eſcape with life after being over-heated; but their life is thenceforth good for nothing. After their death, you will diſcover, on opening them, that they periſhed by being over-heated; for you will ſee their greaſe ſticking, of a blue colour, to their ſides, and run in hard lumps.

Upon the whole, whatever appearances of health your hawk may exhibit after ſtones and caſting, you are not to conſider her as really enſeamed till ſhe is ſet to her wings, and exerciſed gradually from eaſy to long flights. Then will ſhe break greaſe, and be prepared to your mind throughout her whole body.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

Of the Merlin and Hobby.

THE merlin and hobby are nearly of the ſame ſize and diſpoſition; the former builds her neſt in heath, and the latter on a tree. The merlin, the diminutive of the faulcon, is capable of being made exceedingly manny and tame. She is beſt when bred from the eyrie. She will kill partridges; but excells every hawk at larks and ſnipes. She will fly at heck all the year round, except two months, when ſhe is taken down to the mew, at cawking-time. Her weakneſs is her chief defect, which hinders her from keeping the fiſt in windy weather.

She is to be trained in every reſpect like the faulcon. You may fly her in the forenoon till ten o'clock; give her reſt in the heat of the day; and from two o'clock you may fly her till ſun-ſet. If you diet her properly, there is no hawk able to give better ſport.

You

You may enter her at quail; but ſhe gives exquiſite pleaſure at the lark, mounting to a very high place, if yet an eyeſs. In a plain country, ſhe will drive the lark ſo faſt in the air, both making, the one ſtoops, and the other buckles, for a long time; and, if the lark get down, ſhe darts into the door or window of a houſe for ſafety; but never takes to a thicket or buſh, ſhe being a long-winged bird, and always ſits on the open ground.

As to the hobby; juſt before this bird is able to perch on the ſide of her neſt, take her away to another you have provided for her on a tree in a garden, where ſhe may be out of harm. There feed her with bits from the point of a ſtick, ſharpened for this purpoſe, till ſhe is able to ſtand firmly on her legs, and pull hard at her meat. This artificial neſt is not to be above the reach of a man.

Then begin to lure her thence by your voice to your fiſt; and a ſingle foot is enough at firſt. As ſhe increaſes in ſtrength, you are to increaſe the diſtance, till ſhe obey your voice from as far

as

as ſhe is able to hear it, and wait on you in the air wherever you would have her.

When ſhe is full-ſummed, dreſs her in jeſſes, bewits, and bells, and accuſtom her to the hood and fiſt by gentle uſage. Then train her with larks; never giving her any from the hand or fiſt, but allowing her to kill two or three on the lure. Afterwards, tie one of them to a creance of brown thread, and let her fly at it, after it has got to the height of a tall tree. When ſhe has killed two or three this way, ſhe will go eagerly to her buſineſs, affording immenſe diverſion to the ſpectators.

Being thus thoroughly trained, you may permit her to fly at heck continually at thoſe times you have no uſe for her. But take care that, for ſome days before, you lure her by your voice from about a quarter of a mile, and there feed and leave her. When ſhe is fed, ſhe will directly return to the place where ſhe was trained up at firſt, that is, to her heck.

On

On reſting days, after her gorge, ſhe will ſoar at noon out of ſight; and, by theſe high flights, will gain as thorough a knowledge of the country as any haggard. There is, on this account, no danger of her being loſt when ſhe remains behind you fu'-footed within four or five miles of your reſidence; for, after ſhe has finiſhed her meal, ſhe will return to her heck. And in this courſe ſhe is to continue till the cawking ſeaſon, that is, till the firſt of March, when ſhe is taken down for two months.

CHAP. XXX.

Of the Gyr-faulcon.

The gyr-faulcon is a bird of paſſage, her eyric being in Moſcovy, Norway, and Pruſſia. She is of a fierce and fiery nature, very hardly managed and reclaimed; but, being once overcome, proves an excellent hawk, ſcarce refuſing to ſtrike at any thing. She does not naturally fly the river, but at heron, and other big game. In going up to

her gate, ſhe does not hold the courſe or way that other hawks do, but climbs up upon her train. When ſhe finds any fowl, and as ſoon as ſhe has reached her, pulls her down, if not at firſt, yet at the ſecond or third encounter.

You train this bird juſt as you do the faulcon. You muſt make her very gentle both at home and abroad, before you enter her at game. After you have gained this point, you are to teach her to come to the dead pelt of hens, fowl, heron, or any other fleſh of the ſame kind; for, being dead, it will not overheat her, nor tempt her to ſurfeit herſelf. You muſt allow her to touch none of the fleſh, except from your hand. All the while ſhe is pluming, chear her with your voice as you go about her, and ſit by her on your knees. By this means ſhe will look for her food from your own hand only, never minding what ſhe has in her foot, and be entirely reclaimed from carrying.

The gyr-faulcon flies with great ſpirit at heron; but always take care to give her the due reward the moment ſhe brings down the fowl.

This

This ſhews the neceſſity of training a hawk well at firſt; for, if ſhe be well made at the beginning, ſhe is everlaſtingly made.

Before you ſpring any fowls, let her kill half a dozen at the lure, cloſe by you, having a pair of ſhort creances at it, to prevent her carrying. For when ſhe ſees the fowl fluttering, ſhe is apt to come down rapidly, in order to rake it off, but the creances hinder her: And ſo ſhe neither croſſes your deſign, nor is put into a pet by your oppoſition. When ſhe has the fowl, go gently in to her; give her nice bits of meat; and ſhe will leave it untouched, to come to your fiſt.

This method, diligently obſerved, will effectually reclaim the haggard gyr-faulcon to fly well, and kill fowl, but eſpecially to purſue the heron. This is the game at which they give the beſt diverſion, by the ſtatelineſs of their flights; and intermewed birds are the moſt proper for it. Theſe, as they are not yet habituated to any particular ſort of prey, may be eaſily reclaimed by the following courſe.

Firſt,

Firſt, You are to conſider, that gyr-faulcons newly taken from the air are full-fed; and therefore you are not too ſuddenly to change their natural way of living, giving them neither too hard food nor labour till they are mewed. Hawks in good plight will not fly at game which they ſee cannot be eaſily come at, but wait for a better opportunity. This is the caſe with old hawks; but young unexperienced birds will fly at any diſadvantage. This caution of old hawks robs the faulconer of his ſport; but, to make them more eager, he needs only to leſſen the quantity of their food; and then they will fly boldly at every thing he ſprings to them. Yet this diminution muſt be made with prudence, for fear of weakening the hawks. The flight at the heron depends entirely on the eye and force of the hawk, and can receive no hinderance or encouragement from the faulconer, who has only to view and admire her motions. It may be juſt obſerved, that no hawk is ſo liable as the gyr-faulcon to periſh by being overheated. And,

Secondly,

Secondly, If your hawk be a freſh haggard, or nearly ſuch, ſhe will be the better able to endure fatigue. But you are carefully to ſtudy whether her taſte be already formed to other game than you would fly her at. Should this be the caſe, you are to uſe all your art to break off all her natural habits, and to make her take on thoſe which are moſt agreeable to your own will.

After the ſeaſon of making and flying is over, your hawk is to be gradually filled up to full fleſh, and mewed with all care. As the gyr-faulcon is a heavy bird, green ſods, often ſhifted, are the beſt perch for her; for their moiſtneſs and ſoftneſs ſave her feet from being hurt by her own weight. Set water and ſtones by her, and give her the whole range of the mew to move in; and ſhe will manage herſelf better than any perſon can do.

When you take her again from the mew, you are to have fair, jolly, capacious rufter-hoods, through which you can give her plumage, bones, or ſtones, to purge her, as alſo waſhed meat.

There

There is much danger in enſeaming her; and therefore this operation ſhould be gradually performed.

The ſhorteſt ſpace wherein a gyr-faulcon can be made ready for the lure from the mew is ſix weeks; for her life is in danger if ſhe receive the leaſt heat in her greaſe. If all due care is taken of her, ſhe will continue good for twenty years. She is indeed excellent at the heron or kite; but if you want to train her to the river, you are referred to the directions given on this ſubject with regard to the haggard faulcon.

CHAP. XXXI.

Of the Goſhawk.

THE Goſhawk is found in the north of both Scotland and Ireland, where ſhe builds her neſt in a tree. Her nature is hot, and conſtitution ſtronger than that of any other hawk. She kills at the bout. Being ſhort winged, ſhe is not to be flown

flown at heck. No hawk is more ravenous, nor more forgetful of her keeper, if ſhe happen to get a day or two out of his ſight.—She is never liable to the crock, filanders, and liver-ſhot, infirmities which all other hawks are ſubject to. When you get a goſhawk from the cage, ſhe is generally much hurt by carriage and improper food; and therefore needs cleanſing previous to your beginning to reclaim her, which you may give her, without medicines or ſcouring.

You muſt procure her a good ſtomach before you give her caſting; and this you will effect by good meat, clean waſhed and dreſſed, given in gorges ſuited to her digeſtion. To accuſtom her to the hood, ſlip it eaſily on while ſhe is feeding, and at moderate intervals take it off, to give her little bits; and ever ſteal it gently on while ſhe ſwallows them. About an hour, or little more, after ſupper, give her caſting, and ſhe will throw it up in the morning; and, after a few days of this care, ſhe will take it herſelf. Give her not a bit of meat ſoon above her caſting; for this endangers her life by choaking,

ing, and at leaſt never miſſes of making her ſick.

When ſhe is well enſeamed and in actual flying, give her plumage every night immediately after ſhe is fed up; but, when ſhe reſts, very clean meat is all that ſhe needs till the morning, when you are to give her prepared hare's foot. Woolen caſting is improper. After a plentiful ſupper, it fatigues her ſtomach, and hinders her digeſtion; and thus comes up before the natural time. If you examine it then, it is of an aduſt colour, clammy in its texture, and ſometimes mixed with dirty bloody water. It has been known to grow into ſolid hard ball, called a cullion, which ſhe is not able to throw up, and ſo kills her. Something further concerning this ſhall be mentioned hereafter.

The food proper for her during the flying ſeaſon is good meat well waſhed, and afterwards ſqueezed in a clean towel, till the water run all out, except ſhe is ſick and weak. Yet, if ſhe is very hard-flown, and much fatigued, you muſt give her thrice a week the neck of a partridge or

or woodcock to ſupper, warm in the blood. But when ſhe is ſet to reſt, let her meat be very well waſhed, and hard ſqueezed, and dried a little, in order to keep her ſtomach ſharp, and her temper obedient. If the weather is ſevere, the hawk is apt to grow benumbed and diſpirited; and therefore you muſt not then fly her with an empty ſtomach, but every now and then give her bits to ſupport her ſtrength and courage during her flights. She is alſo ſubject to flatulencies, which appear by the ſwelling of the gorge, and her croaking: And theſe, as well as lowneſs of fleſh, are remedied by diet ſuited to the weather, to her labour, and to her digeſtion. If theſe flatulencies are not guarded againſt, they bring on the cray and other infirmities: And, if her fleſh falls low, it is very difficult to raiſe it again in the cold ſeaſon. Proportion her diet, while ſhe is hunting, to the length or ſhortneſs of her toil; ſo as that ſhe may never be empty, and yet ſo as that her appetite may be ſharp, and her ſtrength ſufficient for flight.

There is a conſiderable difference between old and new-killed meat. The former has loſt its nouriſhing qualities, which no waſhing can ever reſtore to it; and, inſtead of ſtrengthening your hawk, it reduces her to leanneſs, and many other diſeaſes. Hot meat, on the contrary, though waſhen and ſqueezed, ſtill retains enough of nutriment, and promotes health, and prevents diſorders.

Take all pains to gain the love and familiarity of your hawk; and, for this purpoſe, never take her up on your fiſt without whiſtling, and uſing your voice, and giving her a ſtump or bit of meat to pleaſe her. But harſhneſs will diſguſt her, and make her hate you; for ſhe cannot bear to be oppoſed ſtubbornly, or contradicted. You muſt alſo obſerve to give her dinner, while you are enſeaming her, not all at once, but in ſmall bits, at ſeveral intervals. To give it all at once will retard her making; but, to diſtribute it, will accelerate her making.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXII.

To reclaim the Goſhawk taken from the Cage.

To reclaim the goſhawk from the cage, obſerve the following directions. Give her a fortnight's carriage, or more, in her rufter-hood, always ſtroking and ſoothing her with a feather, till ſhe bear your hand. Feed her with clean waſhed meat; and keep her by you on a perch in the night-time, ever chirping and whiſtling to her, in order to prevent her from ſleeping. Thus you will put her ſtomach in good order, and render her obedient to your will.

Then you may take off her rufter-hood, and put on another of the ordinary ſort, which fits her eaſily and neatly. To accuſtom her to this hood, give her a bit of meat every time you put it on, and, in a ſhort time, ſhe will make no reſiſtance. Then ſet her on a high warm perch, in a dark place, (for cold gives her cramps), to ſleep two

or

or three hours. Afterwards lure her with a bit of meat, as alſo with your voice, to your fiſt; and, dividing her meal into ſeveral parts, feed her at proper intervals with it while her hood is on. Follow the ſame practice in the day-time, as the beſt method to make her fond of her hood. If ſhe is very ſhy, do not meddle with her but by candle-light, and at meals.

Laſt of all, you are to teach her to jump to your fiſt; which ſhe will do readily, if her ſtomach is in good order, and you ſhew her a bit of meat. This you can do when you are feeding her with the bits into which her meal is divided; and you may bring her with theſe from twenty to forty yards diſtance from you for a fortnight. In that time, ſhe will become quite bold and familiar, and be forever hindered from carrying. If ſhe happen to be brought too low, ſhe will never after enjoy her health.

Now that you have brought your hawk to this pitch of perfection, you muſt further breed her to be familiar with your ſpaniels. At her meals, draw the dogs together, and, ſtooping, feed

feed your hawk on your fiſt among them. You are then to have three or four couples about you, to prevent her learning to know the particular one you take to the field with her. At the ſame time, have, in a ſhort creance, the dead pelt of a pullet or hen, which you are to throw among them, that ſhe may fly from your fiſt, and chop among them and ſeize it. Suffer her to plume a while on it; then take her up again, with a ſtump, to your fiſt, and throw the pelt as before, encouraging her to fly after it.

Continue this courſe daily, till you find her venturing fearleſsly among them, and you will ſoon perceive her intimidating the dogs, who will immediately give away as ſoon as they ſee her coming among them. Without all this preparation, ſhe would have been of no uſe to you.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Of entering the Goſhawk.

WHEN you carry your hawk to the field for the firſt time, beware of flying her near dove-cotes or farm-houſes, leſt ſhe ſhould check at pigeons or poultry; a fault from which ſhe is hardly or ever to be reclaimed.

To enter her at game, take with you three or four live partridges; ſend your ſervant with one of them to the cover, which he ſhall beat with a pole, as if he were ſpringing fowls, calling at the ſame time to the dogs; then let him ſlip away his partridge dextrouſly, when he ſees the hawk's head right in, hollowing to her to raiſe her attention to it. When ſhe has killed it, run in, and take care that neither the dogs, nor any thing elſe, may frighten her from her prey; but let her plume it, and take blood, having the ſpaniels all the while by her. After ſhe has eaten the head, which you are to teach her to diſpatch on the ground

ground in her foot, throw the dead pelt of the partridge among the dogs, and let her take it in her ſhort creance, that ſhe may not carry it from you. While ſhe ſits on it pluming, give her her ſupper. By a few leſſons of this ſort ſhe will come to diſtinguiſh a partridge at firſt ſight, and fly readily at it; but you muſt not for the firſt year allow her to ſee pheaſants at all, for fear of putting her out of conceit with partridges.

In the beginning of the ſeaſon, take care not to fly her at the young partridges, till they be at the diſtance of two or three hundred yards from you, to prevent her killing them too ſuddenly, and without any trouble. Beſides, the partridges grow daily ſtronger towards winter; and therefore, if you allow her to kill them at your foot at firſt, ſhe will not purſue them when in winter they are able to fly with their utmoſt force. She will turn from them as ſoon as they get a few yards before her beyond the uſual diſtance, and, from deſpair of overtaking them, will take her ſtation on a tree.

It is a fault to which this hawk is ſubject, that ſhe ſits ſtill on the ground, inſtead of waiting on in the air, after ſhe has driven a partridge into the cover. Hence it happens, that ſhe never ſees the partridge after the dogs have retrieved it; and ſo it is loſt. To amend this fault, take her up by the ſhoulders in both your hands, and throw her quickly on the neareſt tree or hedge. This done, call your dogs, and ſpring the partridge under her eye, or as near as you can; ſhe will then fly at it, and give you far more ſport than you could have had by her killing it juſt before her in the cover. Continue this practice; and the fear of being toſſed up, joined to the hopes of game, will ſoon induce her to get on high of her own accord.

This is the fault of a young hawk; and you are never to lure her to your fiſt before ſhe has killed the fowl. Beware of carrying her bare-faced; for the light, making her beat and hale on your hand, tends to weaken her for flight, and render her averſe to her hood.

No

No hawk demands the hood ſo much as the goſhawk, which ſhe ought never to want but at weather and bath.

CHAP. XXXIV.

Of entering the Goſhawk at the Cover.

IF you would make your hawk bold to fly at pheaſants in thick woods, as ſhe was in the open fields, ſpring a fowl to her, and ſend her at it. When you ſee ſhe has brought it down, command your dogs behind you, leſt they run in and rob her; and go you in ſearch of her. But, if ſhe miſs it, take her on your firſt, or put her on a tree, and ſpring it again as near her as may be; and if ſhe has killed it, keep your dogs behind, and ſuffer her to plume it a while. Then walk to her, ruſtling yourſelf and dogs through the buſhes; and, ſtooping, give her the head and neck in her foot for her recompence. When ſhe has done, throw the body of the

pheaſant among the dogs, and ſend her after it, that ſhe may ſnatch it from them. Make ready her ſupper, and give her that inſtead of the pheaſant, which you are to ſteal dextrouſly from her while ſhe is buſy with the other.

The reaſon why you are to keep the dogs behind you is, beſides the danger of their robbing the hawk, to hinder them from diſturbing and frightening her at her prey.

This is the courſe you are to take with the goſhawk in flying her at pheaſants; and, that you may take it ſtill more ſucceſsfully, attend to the following preparation, which ought to have ſtood at the beginning of the chapter.

The pheaſants ſometimes, inſtead of flying directly on, take to perch; whence the hawk is to be taught to take them. For this purpoſe, take a brown chicken with you to the wood in the evening; and, having broke its neck, erect it on the top of a long pole, high enough to be ſeen by the hawk. Then ſtirring the pole, ſo as to give the chicken a fluttering appearance, and

and at the ſame time calling to the hawk—ſhe will come directly in, and pull it down. In this caſe, keep the dogs from moleſting her in her deſcent; and give her leave to plume and divert herſelf on the fowl. While ſhe is thus engaged, bring the dogs cloſe about her, and let her eat the head and neck among them, as her reward.

By following this method, you will bring your hawk to be ſo bold, that ſhe no ſooner ſhall ſee a pheaſant go to perch, than ſhe will ſeize him, and bring him down.

Beware of ſtrange dogs, becauſe they will mar your hawk. One ſtrange and unruly dog will miſlead the other dogs; and the hawk will know him, and give way for fear of him. And when they chace in with the hawk and fowl, the ſtrange dog may not only attack, but even tear the hawk and fowl to pieces, and learn the reſt to join him.

When a fowl is ſurpriſed on the ground, and ſeized by a ſpaniel, you are not to call down your

your hawk to it, but throw it up to her, uſing your voice to excite her attention. If ſhe miſs it any how at the firſt throw, you are to repeat it, until ſhe truſs the fowl, and come down with it. Then give her the uſual reward among the dogs.

It were well you accuſtomed her now and then to this exerciſe with a pullet, when you have no pheaſants. This will learn her to bear the preſence and noiſe of men, horſe, and dogs, without being intimidated; for the goſhawk is naturally ſhy and wild.

CHAP. XXXV.

Of the Haggard Goſhawk.

THIS hawk is of all others the wildeſt, and conſequently the moſt difficult to be reclaimed. Hence the greateſt care and diligence become neceſſary to render her manageable.

The

The ſame treatment you were directed to give to the hawk from the cage, are you to give her, but with the addition of much more time, patience, and gentleneſs. She requires all the ſkill of the moſt experienced faulconer. As in her wild ſtate ſhe is expoſed to the rapacity of many enemies, nature and neceſſity force her to take to the cover with her prey, where ſhe may ſecurely feed on it; and this cuſtom ſhe retains, to the great trouble of the faulconer, even after ſhe is reclaimed in a good meaſure.

The way to cure her of this vexatious fault is, never to feed her in woods or thickets, but to make her attend you to an open field, where there is not any cover to hide her. Call her then to your fiſt, and feed her with a bit or two on it; after which, put to her leaſh, and let her eat the reſt of her meal on the ground by you, reſerving only a ſtump to lure her to your fiſt again. Afterwards ſet her on the ground, and, ſtooping, convey ſome bits ſlyly to her, ſo that ſhe may hardly perceive your hand, which would cauſe her ſtrike with her talons at the meat.

By

By carrying on this method, you will gradually wear off her wildneſs, and take away her inclination to carry and gorge in ſecret. This accompliſhed, you may carry her freely to the field, and enter her at partridge, according to the rules already delivered. Only obſerve, further, that you have her meal ready along with you, and feed her ſlowly with it, while ſhe is pluming the firſt fowl ſhe kills, till ſhe have enough; and this alſo will be a mean to hinder her from carrying to feed herſelf. She will wait for you, and expect her reward at your hand alone, leaving the fowl to your own diſpoſal.

The goſhawk is ſeldom found fit for both the open country and cover; therefore, if you have one that delights in partridge, keep her for this kind of ſport only, and never let her fly at pheaſant; for the eaſe of killing the latter, which is a ſlow flyer, will make her abandon the former, as it is a ſwift flyer.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVI.

Of flying the Goſhawk at Wild Duck, Mallard, Heron, Gooſe, and Rooks.

DUCKS and mallards delight in ponds and marſhes that are ſurrounded with ſhrubs and ruſhes, and graſs, where they meet with little moleſtation.

To train your hawk to this ſport, provide three or four tame ducks of the ſame colour with the wild one, and throw her up one of them for as many days. When ſhe has brought them down, ſuffer her to plume them at her leiſure, and give her the heads and necks for her reward. Then get one or two more, which, on trial, you know to be good flyers, and ſend one of them with a ſervant before you, to a pond ſurrounded with buſhes, where he is to lie hid till your arrival. When you come to the ſame

ſame place, ſtrike the buſhes with your pole, which is to be a ſignal to your ſervant to let off the tame duck into the air, without diſcovering himſelf. The hawk, being ſharp-ſet, will take the air directly after her, and bring her down in an inſtant.

When you have given her a few leſſons of this kind, you may boldly enter her at wild game, with aſſurance of much ſucceſs. Creep as near as you can to the pond or marſh, holding up your hawk as high as you can, and beating the buſhes or ſedges, to raiſe the fowls. As ſoon as ſhe brings one of them down, run in and croſs its wings, that it may not hurt your hawk. Let her plume it, and amuſe herſelf with it, and then reward her as uſual.

It will be proper for you to have a ſwimming ſpaniel along with you; for, when the hawk is well acquainted with the ſport, ſhe will be ſo ready to rake the fowl as it riſes, that they ſhall both fall into the water together. In this caſe, the dog either catches and brings out the duck, or ſets it to its wings, and gives the hawk another

ther opportunity for ſeizing it, and receiving her reward.

As to the heron, gooſe, and rook, you are to teach your hawk to take the two firſt in the ſame way you enter her at the laſt. Get ſome live rooks, and pull out ſome of the wing-feathers of one of them, on each ſide, and ſet it on the ground. Then unhood your hawk at the diſtance of about forty paces, and turn her head towards the place where the rook is walking: She will likely fly at it. In this caſe, let her plume, and be well rewarded on it.

Next, put your rook in a long creance, without any feathers drawn, and peg it into the ground, about a yard or two from the end to which the rook is tied. Keep the other end in your own hand, and, unhooding your hawk, let her fly at the rook. But, before ſhe reaches the rook, pull the creance, by which means you will draw up the peg, and give the rook leave to fly a little way before the hawk reach her. In this manner, you will teach her to ſeize rooks on wing ever after.

The tercel anſwers beſt for ſmall birds; but the goſhawk is to be flown at gooſe or heron, becauſe ſhe is much ſtronger. Theſe laſt mentioned birds come into the power of the goſhawk in the ſame way as the rook; but you muſt always croſs their wings as ſoon as you can, after they are brought down, leaſt by their beating they hurt your hawk.

To conclude, you may alſo fly the goſhawk at hares and rabbits, to which you will enter her, by putting them in a long creance. She kills them at the bout as eaſily as wild ducks.

CHAP. XXXVII.

Of the Sparhawk.

THE ſparhawk is ſhort-winged, the diminutive of the goſhawk, and kills at the bout. She flies at the crow, the rook, the lapwing, the pigeon, the magpy, the ſparrow, which ſhe will purſue through the thickeſt hedges; and par-

particularly at partridges in harveſt, from the firſt of September to November, when the froſt ſets in, at which time partridges are too ſtrong for them.

She is to be bred from the eyrie or neſt, which is found on a tree in our woods; and is to be trained as the goſhawk. They are not ſo eaſily tamed as merlins, being naturally much wilder. Take care to have her always in company with men, dogs, or horſes, to keep, as well as to make her manny.—But, by proper diligence, you may tame even the haggard in ten days, ſo as ſhe ſhall come to your fiſt from a tree. Yet, if ſhe wander a day from you, ſhe will have forgotten you.

There is no hawk which will kill as many partridges in a day as ſhe will; and ſhe flies juſt as well in the cover as in plain and open ground.

As ſhe is very ſhy, ſhe muſt be prepared for the field, the night before you take it, with waſhen meat, plumage, and caſting, to give her ſtomach

ſtomach a keen edge; and, as ſhe is a ſmall bird, ſhe muſt be kept high with nice meat in firm, clean fleſh, to enable her to endure fatigue, and to go through her duty with ſpirit.

To make her fly the better, you muſt have along with you, in a little box, ſome freſh butter, mixed up with a little ſaffron and ſugar-candy, which you are to give her either with her meat, or alone. It will keep her head clear, her temper good, her ſpirit high, and her body from the cray.

The muſket is a very ſmall bird; but makes excellent ſport at ſmall birds through hedges.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

Of the Lanner and Lanneret.

THE lanner is a hawk very common in moſt countries, eſpecially in France, making her eyrie

rie on lofty trees in foreſts, or on high cliffs near the ſea.

The eyeſs from the eyrie is of all hawks the moſt eaſily tamed to your purpoſe. She is trained like the faulcon-gentle. You firſt teach her to come to the lure garniſhed with meat. Then let her kill two or three fowls at it, but which have ſome ſpace to flutter about it.

When you have rendered her expert in killing this way, let her be lured in the field from man to man, with a fowl in a creance, from which ſhe cannot carry it off. If ſhe ſeize it briſkly, let her be well rewarded on it; but, after that, let her have no more upward flown fowls from the hand. The reaſon is this; they become ſo fixedly attached to any habits they get, that it is impoſſible to wean them from them afterwards; and, were they accuſtomed to fowls from the hand, they never would chace them wild in the air. This ariſes from her phlegmatic temper, which cannot endure the trouble of changing.

Accordingly,

Accordingly, of all hawks, the haggard lanner is the wildeſt and moſt difficult to be reclaimed. She is to be made manny much in the ſame way as you treat the faulcon-gentle, but with infinitely more trouble.

The ramage-lanner is of the ſame diſpoſition, and requires the ſame treatment. They are both very ſubject to the fault of carrying, and cured of it with great difficulty.

The method is, to lure her only once at a time, and to feed her, the moment after you take her from the lure, with ſmall bits from your hand, the ſpaniels being by you all the while. At her firſt entering, you are to have but few dogs with you; and theſe muſt be gentle and cool, that ſhe may the more eaſily get acquainted with them: For, if ſhe take fright and hatred at dogs, it is impoſſible to reconcile her to them, and will ever after carry the inſtant they come in her ſight, and prey on the game ſhe ſeizes.

Too hard flying, and too low feeding, will much injure any hawk; but they prove deſtructive to the

the lanner; and it is by theſe extremes that ſhe is generally ſpoiled. Therefore great care is to be taken to call her from her wings before ſhe grows faint; and to keep up her fleſh with diet ſuited to her appetite and digeſtion.

Let her kill fowls in a long creance, hard by you, to accuſtom her to your preſence, and to help her wildneſs away; and reward her with the fowls ſhe kills, or with other ſuch meat, waſhed a little, as you do to the faulcon. Then you may put her to the river in company with a good make-hawk; and, by the force of example, ſhe will become a good river-hawk herſelf.

CHAP. XXXIX.

Of the Saker.

THIS hawk is to be bred like the faulcon-gentle; but ſhe is much more difficult in training. Her eyrie has not been yet found any where but in the Levantine iſlands.

She

She is a little longer than the haggard falcon; her plumes ruſty and ragged; her foot and beak reſemble thoſe of the lanner; her pounces ſhort, and her train the longeſt among all birds of prey. She is very ſtrong and hardy, and will attack all fowls, particularly large ones, as gooſe, &c. She flies alſo at pheaſant and partridge; and is much leſs dainty in her diet than long-winged hawks are. She makes excellent ſport with the kite, which, as ſoon as the ſaker is thrown off, takes to her wings, going directly to her higheſt pitch, and making many turns in the air. The many conteſts betwixt them afford great pleaſure to the ſpectators.

CHAP. XL.

Of the Diſeaſes of Hawks, and their Cure.

HAWKS are ſubject to various diſeaſes, which are occaſioned by various cauſes; and, theſe guarded againſt, their bad effects are prevented.

Hawks

Hawks ſuffer by cold, eſpecially from water, when they are hot in their greaſe; by being too haſtily enſeamed; by excluſion from the freſh air; by unwholeſome food; by being ſuddenly raiſed in their fleſh; by being brought ſuddenly low; and by every thing elſe which is contrary to their nature.

You may diſcern when your hawk is ſick, by her crowcking, and the ſlackneſs of her feathers, and the ſtartings of her feet, or legs.—But, to be more particular,

1. *Of a Hawk which retains her Stones too long.*

When your hawk retains her ſtones beyond the natural period for caſting them, you are to keep her ſtrong and full of fleſh, and give her the ſmaller kind of ſtones, out of fair water, at night. This diſorder ariſes from weakneſs, and muſt therefore be cured, not by provocatives to caſt, but by time and ſkillful management.

2. *Of Scourings for Hawks which digeſt ill.*

Scourings are neceſſary to hawks when they are foul, and unable to digeſt their food. The

morning is the proper ſeaſon for giving them this remedy, which ought to be carefully ſuited to the ſtate of their conſtitution. To prepare ſtrong hawks for a purge, they muſt be laboured, eight days before, with carriage, clean food, and caſting, to ſtir them, and looſen the filth in their pannel. This done, feed them in the morning, that they may be empty by eight at night, when you are to give neither bones nor feathers. Then you may give them the ſcouring, and ſet them up warm all night, that they may not take cold thro' emptineſs.—The following is the receipt for a comforting water, to be given them after the ſcouring. Take half a dozen bruiſed cloves, as many thin ſlices of liquorice, and a little brown ſugar-candy. Put all theſe ingredients into a pint of fair water, and let them ſteep together all night. Give your hawks a tea-ſpoonful or two of it, each, early in the morning, with ſtones; and when they have caſt them, they will be in order for a moderate breakfaſt of good meat. This water, together with the ſtones, will purge away the remains of the ſcouring you gave them over night; and it

is

is beſides an excellent reſtorative, by itſelf, to poor and weak hawks.

3. *Of Curing Hawks over-tired on being firſt entered.*

When your hawk is over-fatigued by ſevere flights, immediately after being entered, give her the following phyſic. Take a bottle of claret, and boil it down, on a ſlow fire, to an Engliſh pint, with four ounces of ſugar-candy, two drops of ſaffron, one drop of cinnamon, one drop of mace, and a pepper clove. Let this compoſition cool; cork it well up in a ſmall bottle; and give your hawk a tea-ſpoonful of it, to recover her ſtrength and courage.

4. *A General Cure.*

The following medicine is very general, being effectual both in preventing and curing many diſorders. Take two drops of ſaffron, two drops of cinnamon, two drops of mace, ſix pepper cloves, a little ſcrape of rhubarb, a little carduus benedictus, the bulk of an egg of wormwood, and as much of rue; which two laſt ingredients muſt be dried at the fire. Pound all theſe in a mortar

mortar together, and afterwards ſtir them into a quarter of a pound of butter, perfectly freſh, which has been melted over the fire, and then add to the whole a little roſe-water. Lay up this compoſition for uſe, in an earthen pot covered with leather, where it will continue good for a year. The quantity of a bean wrought into the ſame quantity of powdered ſugar-candy, is a doſe for a faulcon, and the half of that is a doſe for a tercel.

5. *To cure Hawks ſuddenly waſted.*

If you perceive your hawk fall ſuddenly from her healthy plight, into weakneſs and inward decay, you cannot give her a more gentle and reſtorative phyſic than that preſcribed No. 3. But, previous to your adminiſtering it, you are to feed her at night with the beſt meat, and give her the proper doſe in the morning. During the operation, and till ſhe crave food, you are to ſet her on a warm brick covered with double woolen cloth, to keep her comfortable. When her appetite is come, you are to give her a little, and often, of the beſt hot meat, and never without ſome of the water along with it, mentioned

tioned in No. 2. Thus, with warmth and nouriſhment, ſhe will recover her health gradually, and take to her uſual diet. But,

6. *To cure ſtrong, foul Hawks,*

If your hawk is ſtrong, but unclean within, give her the following medicine. Put a quarter of a pound of freſh butter into a ſaucer full of white wine vinegar; boil them over a gentle fire, ſkimming away the groſs parts they throw up; they being well clarified, put into them four bruiſed cloves, one branch of rue, one branch of wormwood, two flakes of ſaffron, and a tolerable piece of ſugar-candy. Boil all theſe together a good while; then, taking out the rue, and the wormwood, and the cloves, and the ſaffron, and draining out what remains of the vinegar, make the reſt into pills rolled in brown ſugar-candy. Two of theſe pills, about the ſize of acorns, are the doſe for a hawk. But, if this medicine does not work well enough, you may give her a little aloes, wrapt up in one of the pills, to increaſe its ſtrength. This ſcouring is good for hawks ſurfeited by bad food,

food, as it both cleanſes and comforts the bowels.

7. *To cure lured Hawks heated in their Greaſe before they are thoroughly enſeamed.*

If your hawk be lured, but heated in her greaſe before ſhe be thoroughly enſeamed, give her the following ſcouring: Take equal quantities of roſemary and box-leaves powdered, with a little horehound; mingle them all in clarified freſh butter, and make them up in pills with brown candy ſugar. The doſe is a pill or two, which will purge the pannel and make your hawk enſeam eaſily.

8. *To cure an over-heated Liver, and overflowing Gall.*

If you have reaſon to ſuſpect your hawk's liver over-heated, or her gall overflowing, you muſt feed her with light cooling food, dipped into the diſtilled water of endive ſuccory, wherein a ſlice of rhubarb has been infuſed. At the end of four days, give her a gentle ſcouring, to take away the binding quality of the rhubarb.

9. *To*

9. *To cure an over-heated Heart.*

If your hawk is over-heated about the heart, you will perceive her diſeaſe by the dryneſs and ropineſs of her caſting and mutes, by the dulneſs of the colour of her feathers and pounces, by her eagerneſs for bowſing and bathing. In this caſe, light and cooling food muſt be obſerved; and, for a medicine, infuſe half a dozen ſliced cloves into the diſtilled water of borage and bugloſs, and dip your hawk's meat into it. Give her alſo reſt, that fatigue may not increaſe her diſeaſe.

10. *To cure the Fellanders.*

If your hawk is diſtreſſed by fellanders or other worms, and by hearing her peep in the night time, when pinched by them, give her a clove of garlick pierced through all over, which has been well ſteeped in the juice of worm-wood or in oil. Let her have this every night with her ſupper, for two or three days together, and offer water to her every morning. Then, leaving off the garlick, give her at ſupper two or three bits of meat rolled in muſtard-ſeed, till ſhe appear to have recovered her health.

11. *To cure Indigeſtion.*

If your hawk is troubled with indigeſtion, and unable to put her food over into her pannel, you muſt endeavour to make her throw it up, to prevent its putrifying on her gorge, and killing her. In this caſe, water, if ſhe take it, and a few ſtones, have ſometimes been known to do much good; but, when the evil is obſtinate, uſe the following medicine to ſcour her gently. Take butter preſerved in roſe water, a little of the powders of ſaffron and myrrh, and the powder of half a dozen cloves of mace; mingle them all together with a little brown ſugar-candy, and make the compoſition up into pills. Before you give your hawk any meat on her indigeſtion, give her one or two of theſe pills early in the morning. When you perceive her emptied by their operation, give her, at the uſual hour of feeding, but a ſingle bit of the very beſt meat, and the ſame quantity at other times, juſt as ſhe is eaſily able to digeſt. Next morning, give her ſtones, with a pill of worm-wood; and, after caſting them, feed her with clean ſweet meat dipped in the water ſet down in No 2.

Avoid

Avoid forcing your hawk to throw up, leſt the ſtraining kill her; except the hawk be ſtrong enough to bear the ſize of a bean of alum, which will certainly bring all away. After the alum, you ſhall give her ſome of the above mentioned water to comfort her bowels.

12. *To cure Heat of the Stomach.*

If your hawk is ſubject to drought and heat in the ſtomach, or in any other of her inward parts, you will relieve her by the following medicine. Take almoſt two ounces of French barley, well waſhed, and boil it for a minute in fair water in a pipkin; throw away that water, and put to it the ſame quantity of new water, letting that boil juſt as long; change that water too, and put to the barley a quart of fair water, and boil it into a pint; ſtrain this pint through a linen cloth from the barley, and mixt it up with as much ſugar-candy as will ſweeten it, letting them boil together for a minute. When it is cold, give ſome of it to your hawk, as often as you feed her, for four days; for it will keep good no longer, and you are to make it a-new as long as you need it.

13. *To cure the Croak.*

If your hawk be ſeized with the croak, a very dangerous and deadly diſeaſe, uſe the following medicine. Into a half a pint of claret, put a little ſugar-candy, three or four thin ſlices of the whiteſt ginger, and as many bruiſed cloves. Pour theſe into a ſilver or pewter plate, covered cloſe with another, which anſwers it ſo exactly as to let none of the ſteam eſcape; and boil them over a ſlow fire, in a chaffing-diſh, keeping the heat equal by a pair of bellows. Take off the cover now and then, and wipe off the moiſture you will find on it, with a feather, into a diſh, where you may keep it till you put it in a vial, when it is all collected. Give your hawk a little of it with her food, and at the ſame time reſt and warmth: And, if ſhe be newly taken ill, it will certainly cure her. If the cramp is joined with the croak, give her the ſcouring mentioned in No. 4. But, if the hawk be low, you muſt give her a very gentle doſe. The above liquid alſo helps digeſtion and weakneſs. But, if the hawk has been long diſordered with the crowck, and has given over eating, the following management is ſeldom ineffectual.

Inſtead

Inſtead of warmth, and drugs, and indolence, you muſt ſet your hawk to her wings night and day, about the houſe, and in plantations, where ſhe may ſit dry when ſhe wants to reſt. She will follow you when you go to the field, croaking hard and craving food; but the firſt day ſhe will only tear and throw away her food, without ſwallowing a bit. The next day, however, ſhe will be enabled by her exerciſe to take a little, perhaps half a ſparrow; and come thus to her ſtomach by degrees. When ſhe is able to eat any thing, you muſt put a pepper clove into a bit of her food, which is to be always of ſmall birds, while ſhe is ſo very weak.

This terrible diſtemper ariſes from foul-feeding, hunger-ſtreſs from her being loſt a few days, beating from the fiſt, hanging by the jeſſes, and from cold after heat.

14. *To cure the Cramp.*

If your hawk be ſeized with the cramp, a diſeaſe produced by cold without exerciſe, or by foul feeding, and if ſhe be clean and perfectly enſeamed, mind the following management. Boil, in a large braſs pot full of water, two or three

three handfuls of red and white ſage, and as much polypody of the oak. Cover the pot, after you have taken it off the fire, with woolen cloth very thick, that the warm ſteam may riſe very gently through it, neither too hot nor too cold. On this covering lay your hawk; and renew the heat of the water as you ſee occaſion, when it cools; and alſo give her a clove of garlick every morning, for two or three days ſucceſſively, to expel the inward cold. But if you ſuſpect greaſe within her, purge it away with a little leaf of rue and wormwood ſhred finely down, and mingled with freſh butter and ſugar-candy. Give one or two pills of this compoſition to your hawk two or three mornings in the week; and it will in due time reſtore her health.

15. *To cure the Frownce.*

If your hawk is ſeized with the frownce, you will know it by the mouth and throat being continually frothy, furred, and white. This diſeaſe is occaſioned by water which falls from the head on the throat and tongue, and affects both as a cancer. The way to prevent this diſorder

is,

is, to give your hawk, when ſhe is ſtuffed in the head with cold, the rump of a cow or ſheep, fixed on the block, to tear at; and the violent pulling will make the water to fly out of her nares, and ſo hinder it from producing the frownce. The way to cure it is as follows. Take a ſaucer-ful of the very beſt white wine vinegar; boil in it, for four minutes, three or four leaves of red ſage; add a pretty good quantity of the powder of burnt allum; and then let it boil about a minute. Put up the liquor for uſe in a glaſs-vial, well ſtopt, when cold. But, if the hawk be dangerouſly infected, ſteep for a day, in the liquor, the ſize of two ſmall nuts of brimſtone, finely powdered, and tied up in a linen rag; and with this addition the medicine will cure the moſt inveterate frownce. While you adminiſter this cure, your hawk muſt be clean within, and be indulged in reſt and good nouriſhment. You are to lay on this liquor a little warm, with a feather anointing the ſcabs. After the firſt dreſſing, take off the ſcabs to the quick; and immediately anoint the ſores with the feather dipped in the liquor. Let this dreſſing continue till the third day, when you are to take

take off ſuch ſcabs as are ready of themſelves to come away; and let the reſt remain till they looſen and come eaſily off, that by frequent dreſſing you may not ruin your hawk's mouth. But, if the diſeaſe be juſt beginning, you may ſtop its progreſs, by blowing burnt alium through a quill into the hawk's mouth and throat, which will cure her.

16. *To cure the Cramp in the Feet and Legs.*

If your hawk is ſeized in the legs and feet only with the cramp, the following cure has been recommended. Put the powder of peony-root by your hawk, all day, in a little bag of linen, that ſhe may ſmell it; all night hang it about her neck in a ſtring. Or take a bit of bryony-root, and faſten it about your hawk's leg, and lay it alſo near her beak, that ſhe may taſte it.

17. *To cure the Pin.*

The pin is a diſeaſe which riſes in the feet of hawks, from their reſtleſſneſs in the mew; whereby they are battered into calouſneſs reſembling corns in human feet. The pin can be cured only

only by careful exciſion, and the wound is to be cured with a plaſter of galbanon, white pitch, and Venice turpentine, ſpread on fine leather, and nicely faſtened. Repeat the dreſſing thrice a week, till the wound is healed.

18. *To cure a Bruiſe.*

If your hawk's legs or feet ſwell from a bruiſe, anoint and rub the place with refined bacon greaſe, beaten well up with aquavitae, and wrap it about with a linen rag ſoaked in the bacon greaſe melted; and about that wrap another cloth, or bit of leather, to defend it from the air.

19. *To cure the Cray.*

The cray is a diſeaſe of hawks which makes them mute ſcantily, and with difficulty; and ariſes from cold occaſioned by groſs and cold-waſhed meat. To cure this diſtemper, you are to feed your hawk with chickens, young pigeons, and other food of light and eaſy digeſtion. In the mean time, clarify ſome very freſh butter, with ten bruiſed cloves of mace boiled in it; and, as it cools, add a little of the powder of rue. Put this compoſition in a box, and anoint

your

your hawk's food with it, giving her eaſy gorges. This will ſoon open her head, and enable her to ſlice cleverly. But, if you would have her head perfectly well purged, and her inward paſſages thoroughly cooled, uſe the juice of daiſies or ſage, to cauſe her throw out the remaining noxious humours. This done, add to the juice a little of the flower of brimſtone, gradually to dry them up; and give her alſo with her meat the water of barley, as prepared in No. 12.

20. *To cure the Itching of a Hawk.*

Hawks are ſometimes ſeized with an itching in the bloody part of the feather, where it is inſerted into their bodies; and, to eaſe themſelves, they bite and tug at it with their beaks, till they pull it out. To cure this itch, take a pint of the beſt vinegar, two races of ginger grated to duſt, and boil them together a good while with three branches of rue. Then add the ſize of a walnut of alum, and half a ſpoonful of honey; and let them boil a little longer. A little of this preparation, laid warm with a feather on the diſeaſed feathers, will effectually cure them.

21. *Of*

21. *Of a bad-weathered Hawk.*

If your hawk is bad-weathered, that is, will not ſit on your fiſt when the wind blows, but hales, and beats, and hangs by the jeſſes, ſhe has an ill habit of the worſt kind. The way to cure her is, to turn her out, in a ſtormy night, among trees, where ſhe can have no ſhelter, but be obliged to hold by the branches. If this expedient do not amend her, ſhe is incurable, and no longer worth your attention.

A GLOSSARY of the Technical Terms of FAULCONRY.

The Faulconer's Word is, HOLD FAST.

A

ARMS; the legs of a hawk from the thigh to the foot

B

Bathing; the action of a hawk when ſhe refreſhes herſelf in water

Beak; the crooked part of her bill

Beams; the long feathers of her wings

Beating; the fluttering of her wings when ſhe ſtrives to fly away from perch or fiſt

Bowſing; her drinking frequently.

C

Cage; a machine of a ſquare figure, formed of four narrow boards, on which faulconers tranſport their hawks from place to place, when they have many

Caſting; the feathers given a hawk to cleanſe her gorge

C

Caſting a hawk; the holding her in your hands by the ſhoulders with her wings cloſe, that ſhe may not beat when you force any thing on her

Cawking; the treading of hawks

Ceaſing; the faſt hold a hawk takes with her foot

Ceſſel; the firſt long feather of a hawk's wings

Check; the flying away of a hawk from her natural game, after rooks, or pigeons

Cowering; the ſhaking of a young hawk's wings in obedience to an old one

Crabbing; the fighting of hawks as they ſit by one another

Cutell; the third long feather of a hawk's wings

D

Diſcloſed; newly hatched

Dropping; the muting of a hawk directly downwards.

E

Endew; is thorough digeſtion

Eyrie; the hawk's neſt, or the place where ſhe builds it.

Feaking;

F

Feaking; the wiping which a hawk gives her beak after ſhe is fed

Flag-feathers; the ſhorteſt feathers of a hawk's wings next to the ſhoulders.

Flying on head; this the hawk is ſaid to do, when, miſſing the fowl ſhe ſet out after, ſhe takes the next check

G

Gleeming; the throwing up of filth after caſting

Glute; the ſlimy ſubſtance in the pannel

Gorge; the crop or craw

Gurgiting, ſuffocating, by whatever cauſe, or kind of meat.

I

Inke; the neck of any bird from the head to the body

Intermewed; the change of a hawk's colour from red to white, the ſecond year

Jeuk (to;) to ſleep.

L

Lice; a ſort of vermine which live on hawks

Longopen; the ſecond of the long feathers of a hawk's wings.

Male-

M

Make-hawk; an old ſtaunch hawk, uſed to inſtruct young ones in flying

Male-feathers; thoſe on the breaſt

Managing; the making of a hawk manny or tame

Mantling; the lowering of a hawk's wings down to her feet.

Mew; the place where a hawk changes her feathers

Mites; a vermine, ſmaller than lice, found about the head and nares

Mute; the excrement of hawks.

N

Nares; the noſtrils.

P

Pannel; the part next the fundament, where digeſtion is completed

Pelt; the diſmembered carcaſe of any fowl

Pendant feathers; thoſe behind the thigh

Petty fingers; the toes of a hawk

Pill of a fowl; what remains after the hawk is fed

Plumage; ſmall downy feathers given hawks for caſting.

Plume; the colour of a hawk's feathers whereby her age or conſtitution is known.

Pluming;

P

Pluming; this a hawk is ſaid to do when ſhe pulls the feathers off her prey

Prey; what a hawk kills, and feeds on herſelf.

Q

Quarry; the fowl which hawks are flown at.

R

Raiſed in fleſh; a hawk in this condition is fat and proſpers

Rake out; a hawk does ſo when ſhe flies too far out from the game

Ramage; wild, unmanageable

Reclaiming; taming

Rouſing; the action of a hawk when ſhe ſhakes herſelf

Ruffing; when the hawk ſtrikes, but does not truſs her prey.

S

Sails; the wings of a hawk

Seiling; the blinding of a haggard with a thread paſſed through her eye-lids, to hold them together in order to tame her

Setting down; the putting of a hawk into the mew

Slicing; the muting of a hawk to a good diſtance from her

Sliming;

S

Sliming; her muting directly down, without dropping

Snyting; ſneeſing

Soar-hawk; ſo called from the time ſhe is taken from the eyrie till ſhe has mewed her feathers

Stooping; the quick and impetuous deſcent of a hawk to ſtrike her prey

Summed; a hawk is ſo when ſhe has all her feathers, and is ready to be taken from the mew.

T

Tearing; the action of a hawk pulling at the pinion of a wing

Train; the tail

Truſſing; a hawk does this when ſhe raiſes a fowl into the air, and comes down with it again.

U

Unſummed; a hawk is ſo when ſhe has not yet received all her feathers.

W

Warbling; the croſſing of the wings over the back

Weathering; the ſetting out of a hawk to take the air.